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VIDELA BIDS FAREWELL TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

PY202129 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2320 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Mar (TELAM)--Tonight Gen Jorge Rafael Videla stated that it is rewarding that the national reorganization process now has men who, enriched by experience gained in concrete actions, can fulfill the important role of searching for participation and consensus.

Regarding the search for participation and consensus, the president stated that he is strongly convinced that--without detracting from the main task of the armed forces and the important government task which the authorities who will take over on 29 March will have to carry out--this is an even more important task, to which Argentines of good will have been summoned and which should be permanently and effectively carried out.

The head of the executive branch made these statements tonight during a farewell meeting with the ministers, secretaries, governors and other officials who worked with him during his term in office, which expires at the end of this month.

Videla asserted that during the past 5 years the guidelines of social, labor and economic behavior have been reorganized, thus reorienting the state's function.

Videla read the message during a ceremony which took place in the White Hall of Government House at 1800. In it he pointed out that eliminating terrorist aggression and all its consequences was necessary to secure domestic peace, and that the path toward institutionalization started with the establishment of political guidelines and the political dialogue.

He asserted that beyond the wise steps, the mistakes and the difficult and sometimes bitter disagreements, the members of this process have served the country as examples of patriotism, of modest dedication to the daily task and of serious and well-founded overall far sightedness, which could or could not be shared but which constitutes an essential, unavoidable and basic part of national life.

The president's message was released in a delayed broadcast over the national radio and television network at 2100. In another passage of his message, the president stated: Now and again we have stated that nobody can consider himself the sole creator of the greatness of a nation, that nobody can claim to have the definite solutions and that nobody can consider himself anything but another link in the unfinished and unfinishable chain of progress.

After recalling the beginning of the national reorganization process in 1976, he stated that we also had to make sure that the bases which were being established would be the bases of the country which Argentines desire but which they have not succeeded in achieving. For this, he added, we had to be determined but not arrogant, cautious but not hesitant, audacious but not irresponsible.

Before reading his message, President Videla greeted all those present and made a brief introduction. He ended his message with an impromptu address to the official, after which a toast was made.

Regarding international relations, the president stated that an unwaivering decision to reassert the independence of the country has been demonstrated, and that Argentina has bravely overcome difficult times without relinquishing its essential values, its national integrity or its vital interests, and that due to this it has now started a new phase full of achievements and has definitely left behind minor interests and selfish aspirations.

He then expressed his conviction that the requirement for progress is firmly based, asserting that national unity, from the month of May to this date, has always been the effective cause and condition for greatness, and that those who aspire to greatness have called for unity, promoted unity and demanded unity, while those who feared unity fought it within and beyond our borders.

General Videla summarized his call to work for national unity by asserting: A call was made on 24 March 1976, the day on which the process was started. This process is strengthened by its mission of laying firm bases for the nation, and this is demonstrated and confirmed by its self-limitation, its not falling into personalism and authoritarianism and its clear understanding that, in view of the urgent need to safeguard domestic peace, the process had to be preeminently military but without ever giving up its republican, democratic, pluralistic principles which are in keeping with our past and our future.

He also stated: In our public function or outside of it, let us advocate and build a country with a social balance, with freedom and security where dedication will be the most powerful source of work.

The president also asserted that just as life thrives and grows with change, the process finds in the incorporation of new men the necessary vitality to continue with renewed strength the permanent task of building the republic upon the same bases. The president ended his message by stating: Because we respect man's dignity, because we are strongly committed to guaranteeing his rights and because it is our determination to secure his freedom we do not impose objectives; we do not seek subordinations--we merely seek that all those who authentically share our purpose join this enterprise.

VIOLA RETURNS FROM 'SATISFACTORY' VISIT TO U.S.

PY222148 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 21 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] President designate Roberto Viola returned to Argentina yesterday from what he termed a satisfactory semi-official visit to the United States in which he made contacts with President Ronald Reagan, Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State Alexander Haig and other American political figures.

In a press conference which he gave at Ezeiza International Airport on his arrival at 11:05 yesterday morning, Viola said that he had found in his talks with U.S. officials "a very ample spirit of understanding".

Asked about the thorny human rights issue, which has been a source of constant friction between the United States and Argentina since 1976, the future president indicated that what the military government was seeking was for the United States to refrain from adopting "discriminatory policies" and that Washington's policies be of "equal applicability to any nation in the world, whether small, medium-size or powerful".

Viola, who was met at the airport by some of his future ministers as well as by National Atomic Energy Commission President Carlos Castro Madero, said that he was "absolutely convinced" that the United States, under Ronald Reagan's administration was "reevaluating Latin America as a whole" and that "as a consequence of this reevaluation it is greatly reevaluating Argentina".

He qualified the preinauguration trip to Washington as "private or semi-official" and said that he had wanted to "establish a human personal contact" with U.S. officials since this type of relationship with foreign leaders was in his opinion "of undeniable value".

Viola was also asked by reporters if he had been able to quell the fears of Americans concerning Argentine nuclear energy plans. He answered that he felt he had been heard out on this subject in Washington and indicated that he believed he had soothed U.S. concern that Argentina might be on any but a peaceful atomic development course.

The president-designate was reluctant to discuss economic measures to be taken in the future, indicating that he would rather that the corresponding ministers in his future government explain these things at some time in the future. He did say, however, that redirect was the wrong word to use in describing what the future economic policies would be aimed at doing to the economy. "Reencourage", he felt, was more the word.

Denies Troops Pledged

PY222210 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 21 Mar 81 p 9

[Excerpt] President-designate Roberto Viola yesterday moved quickly on his return from a semi-official visit to the United States to squelch reports that Argentina had pledged troops if needed to aid the government of El Salvador in its fight against leftist guerrillas.

General Viola stated emphatically in answer to a reporter's question at a press conference which he gave on his arrival at Ezeiza International Airport yesterday morning that "Argentina didn't pledge anything" concerning El Salvador as a result of his talks with U.S. officials including President Ronald Reagan, Vice President George Bush and Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

There has been speculation among international political observers since word of Viola's pre-inauguration trip to Washington got around that he would be testing the ground for better U.S. Argentine relations by seeking a more favourable view from the United States of Argentina's human rights record. Some observers felt that Washington might expect something in return for improved treatment and one of the possibilities speculated on was that Buenos Aires would offer open support of a U.S. get-tough policy in El Salvador's war against Marxism.

Fresh speculation was sparked of an active role by Argentina in the Salvadorean conflict on Thursday when Army Secretary General Alfredo Saint Jean told army high command reporters that Argentina was willing to offer "practical participation" in the fighting in El Salvador if the country's government asked for it.

ISABEL PERON, OTHERS SENTENCED BY FEDERAL JUDGE

PY222220 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 21 Mar 81 p 1

[Excerpts] Former president Maria Estela Martinez de Peron ("Isabel") was sentenced to eight years in prison yesterday by Federal Judge Norberto Giletta for mishandling of Solidarity Crusade charity funds, it was learned here.

Giletta's sentence also included other Peronist officials:

Former economy minister Celestino Rodrigo: three years and six months of prison, barred forever from public office.

Former Justicialist Party interventor Duilio Brunello: three years and six months, barred forever.

Norma Lopez Rega de Lastiri, daughter of former social welfare minister Jose Lopez Rega: three years and barred forever.

The judge said that the above three had already served their terms while awaiting judgment. Jose Lopez Rega is a fugutive from justice.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN--Buenos Aires, 20 Mar (TELAM)--Hugo Urtubey, the new Argentine ambassador to Sweden, called at San Martin Palace yesterday prior to departing for his post. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0235 GMT 20 Mar 81 PY]

LA PAZ SCHOOL INCIDENTS TERMED COUP ATTEMPT

PY200057 Paris AFP in Spanish 0131 GMT 20 Mar 81

[by Andres Soliz Rada]

[Text] La Paz, 19 Mar (AFP)--Official sources reported here today that the incidents of a disciplinary nature which took place in the La Paz military school the dav before yesterday were in reality the first stage of a plot aimed at overthrowing Bolivian President Luis Garcia Meza.

This information was confirmed by the fact that former defense and agriculture minister Gen Hugo Cespedes sought asylum in the Brazilian Embassy in La Paz after leading the conspiracy.

Cespedes, who cooperated with the regimes of Generals Hugo Banzer Suarez and David Padilla, managed to incite the mutiny of several senior cadets of the military college through one of his sons, who is in his last year at the military college.

According to our information, the rebels demanded the ouster of Col Luis Arce Gomez from the post of commander of the military college. Colonel Arce had been interior minister until 27 February and had carried out an iron-handed policy regarding the opposition.

According to our information, the demands of the senior cadets were scheduled to be made while rural units rejected the authority of the president. However, the latter disrupted the plans for the insurrection by remaining loyal to the government. The sources indicated that this loyalty was reaffirmed at the meeting of commanders of military units which took place in La Paz yesterday.

During the last few hours, the rebels disseminated recordings of a TV program broadcast in the United States in which members of the regime were connected with drug trafficking. In this regard, Alberto Quiroga Garcia, Bolivian ambassador to the OAS, has sent an explanatory letter, which has been broadly disseminated in the country.

According to our sources, one of the objectives of the conspiracy was to seek a confrontation between President Garcia Meza and Colonel Arce by making the latter appear as a coupist. However, the relations between the two military officers were not affected because Garcia Meza himself thwarted the attempt of the senior cadets.

This outcome permitted not only the confirmation of Arce Gomez as a commander of the military college, but also served to confirm that the former interior minister is still one of the key supporters of the current chief of state.

PRESIDENT ON ARCE GOMEZ INCIDENT, ANDEAN RELATIONS

PY211324 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Rumor is the strongest weapon of extremism, President Luis Garcia Meza has said, while asserting that all activities are going on normally in the nation. The president made these remarks after the ceremony held yesterday, Friday, at the High National Studies School.

On that occasion he expressed surprise at a report regarding the former interior minister Luis Arce Gomez' activities, saying that there are people who have an interest in giving orders and doing things at their own initiative and at their own risk.

The president then denied that there had been disagreements among some government sectors, asserting that extremism and selfish people are trying to create chaos and certain conditions in order to hinder us from working in peace and tranquility which we have now tried to do for 8 months.

Regarding his government's position regarding the Andean Pact, President Garcia Meza maintained that our position will remain the same, because we uphold the principle of nonintervention and the self-determination of peoples. He added: In the case of the Andean Group there was a political intervention in our domestic affairs. As long as political consideration prevails, our relations with the subregional group will remain cold. The president made it clear, however, that this is not a general situation, because Peru has always been our natural ally.

GARCIA MEZA VISITS 7TH DIVISION COCHABAMBA GARRISON

PY191715 Paris AFP in Spanish 1617 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] La Paz, 19 Mar (AFP)--Gen Carlos Turdera, commander of the 7th Army Division, has said that extremist action will have no great success in the country, because there is absolute unity within the armed forces.

The 7th Division, headquartered at Cochabamba in the center of the country, was unexpectedly visited yesterday morning by President Luis Garcia Meza who wished to give a firsthand report on the situation of the country, particularly on the repercussions of the tactical exercises which have been held, Turdera said.

The division commander said that tendentious rumors are being spread by extremism, which has even said that troops have been mobilized in Cochabamba, which is completely untrue.

He concluded by saying that troops and military vehicles will be sent to the Villa Tunari region today, Thursday, to be shipped later to Beni and Pando Departments in the north of the country.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS--Before leaving to assume their posts, four newly appointed ambassadors met on 27 February with Foreign Minister Mario Rolon Anaya. They are Javier Murillo de la Rocha, ambassador-designate to the USSR; Renan Estenssoro Alborta, ambassador-designate to Mexico; Gen Eufronio Padilla Caero, ambassador-designate to Argentina; and Jorge Escobari Cusicanqui, ambassador-designate to Peru. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Feb 81 p 6 PY]

UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS--La Paz, 6 Mar (AFP)--The Bolivian foreign minister, Mario Rolon, has designated Moises Fuentes as the new under secretary general of foreign relations, it was reported here today. Fuentes, who had held the office of secretary for foreign policy, replaces Federico Joffre, who turned in his resignation from his position upon his return from the last nonaligned conference. In addition, Walter Rico Toro has been confirmas as under secretary for worship and ecclesiastical affairs. [Text] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1934 GMT 6 Mar 81 PY]

EDUCATION UNDER SECRETARIAT--Minister of Education and Culture Col Guillermo Escobar Ury has confirmed Lucy Roca de Fusco as under secretary of urban education and Carlos Pardo Effen as under secretary of rural education. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 10 Mar 81 p 8 PY]

LABOR UNDER SECRETARIES--On 13 March Mario Ascarrunz Hurtado was sworn in as new under secretary of labor development and Under Secretary of Labor Jose Azurduy Estenssoro was confirmed in his position in the Ministry of Labor and Labor Development. [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 Mar 81 p 8 PY]

GOVERNMENT DENIES TRAINING NICARAGUAN GUARDSMEN

PY222147 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Mar 81 p 6

[Text] Brasilia--Showing surprise, presidential spokesman Carlos Atila yesterday regarded as "absolutely baseless" the Sandinist Front's charge that Brazil is one of the countries on whose territory former guardsmen of the later dictator Anastacio Somoza are being trained to overthrow the present Nicaraguan regime.

In no way has Brazil carried out any clandestine training, Atila said. He added: "I believe it is unnecessary to repeat President Joao Baptista Figueiredo's statement that Brazil opposes every form of intervention or involvement in the domestic problems of other countries."

The spokesman noted that although Brazil has agreements on military training with some friendly countires, "it never carries out clandestine training." The report is completely baseless, he said.

GENERAL RULES OUT INTERVENTION IN EL SALVADOR

PY192054 Paris AFP in Spanish 1515 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Brasilia, 19 Mar (AFP)--Gen Jose Ferraz da Rocha, chief of staff of the Brazilian Armed Forces, dismissed again here today the possibility of Brazilian support of a military intervention in El Salvador. The officer, who has just returned from an official visit to the United States to establish a new type of military cooperation between the two countries, indicated that Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo himself during his recent visit to Columbia stated his opposition to intervention.

General Ferraz da Rocha said that during his stay in the United States, U.S. officers stated their concern at events in El Salvador and said that they are taking what they believe are the most appropriate measures to solve the Salvadoran conflict.

SEIZED WEAPONS MEANT FOR PARAGUAYAN EXTREMISTS

PY211438 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 21 Mar 81 p 11

[Excerpt] Reliable government sources yesterday informed this newspaper that the arms which were seized in Brazil were destined to our country. The sources states that after inquiries made in Brazil, they are certain that the arms were shipped from Central America to Paraguay.

The sources added that foreign extremist groups have contacts in our country and that the arms were being sent to these contacts. It was also stated that the police are carrying out thorough investigations in order to identify those subversive elements in our country.

NUCLEAR PROGRAM SLOWS DOWN TO CUT HIGH COSTS

PY192255 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Mar 81 p 5

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--Even though NUCLEBRAS is denying the fact that the slowdown of the nuclear program will be discussed during the visit which President Figueiredo will make to the FRG in May, sources of the Mines and Energy Ministry have confirmed this report, explaining that this "measure is necessary to reconcile investments." According to NUCLEBRAS, the visit will serve to discuss mainly matters related to the financing of the nuclear program, and the delays of this program are not on the agenda.

The latest timetable of NUCLEBRAS' projects drawn up this week does not mention any delays whatsoever in the nuclear program, and the date for the ninth and last nuclear powerplant to go into operation is 1995. However, the position of the Mines and Energy Ministry is that the program is not so urgent, because other energy projects such as the Tucurui Dam cannot be slowed down, and there are simply not enough funds for so many programs.

According to a high-ranking source in the nuclear sector, by favoring the slowdown of a program of this size, the government is making an effort to reduce expenditures at a time when the country is experiencing financial difficulties. Despite NUCLEBRAS' estimates to the effect that the entire nuclear accord--including eight powerplants and the fuel cycle technology--will cost $17 billion at 1981 prices. There are quite a few experts connected with the sector who believe that the cost will surpass $30 billion. Countries which are better off financially than Brazil have decided to slow down their nuclear programs. Such is in the case of Argentina, which has reduced its program's target from 28-million kW by 1995 to only 3-million kW. Even the FRG has slowed down the construction of its nuclear projects.

Despite the fact that NUCLEBRAS has already made some investments, it is better to slow down the program and prevent heavier losses, according to a statement made by former NUCLEBRAS director Dirceu Lacerda Coutinho to the Congressional Investigative Committee of the Senate, when he proposed that work on three nuclear units of Angra Dos Reis be stopped.

The slowdown of the nuclear program involves an increase of costs because all delays give rise to unscheduled costs stemming from the commitments undertaken. This is the case of the delays experienced by the construction of powerplants I and II. Heavy equipment has been ordered from the FRG, and now it will have to remain 3 years in storage in Angra Dos Reis, in warehouses which will probably have metal frameworks. Furnas [subsidiary of the Brazilian Electric Power Companies, inc] was already working on the appropriate insurance policies when the nuclear projects where transferred to NUCON [NUCLEBRAS Nuclear Plant Building Company], thus interrupting the insurance process.

According to sources of the Mines and Energy Ministry, "it is necessary to withdraw the foot from the gas pedal a little because the main objective of the nuclear accord is to acquire technology and not to produce nuclear energy, which comprises only a small percentage of what is being consumed." According to the physicists, one of the main objectives is to obtain uranium enrichment technology, which is still under development in the FRG and whose success is not fully proven yet. This entails the risk of permanent dependency as far as fuel for the powerplants is concerned.

The timetable yesterday released by NUCLEBRAS estimates that the fourth nuclear powerplant will begin operating in 1990, and from there on one powerplant will go into operation every year until 1995. As to the fuel cycle, the fuel elements factory in Resende will be fully operational in 1984, the uranium enrichment plant will begin operating at the beginning of the nineties and the hexafluoride plant will be finished in 1986.

SUPREME FEDERAL COURT AGREES TO TRY DEPUTY

PY192354 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] In a secret meeting, the Supreme Federal Court has agreed to try Deputy Genival Tourinho [Workers Democratic Party--Minas Gerais State], who is charged with violating the national security law. During an interview granted last August at the Minas Gerais legislative assembly, Tourinho stated that he had received reports that General Antonio Bandeira, Milton Tavares and Jose Luiz Coelho Neto were involved in terrorist activities.

The national attorney general, Firmino Ferreira Paz, claims that the deputy disseminated false reports in order to "turn the Brazilian people against the legally constituted military authorities." Tourinho's lawyer, Sepulveda Pertenece, is studying the possibility of appealing the Supreme Court decision.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON REORGANIZATION OF POLICY

PY192145 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0108 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Excerpts] All Chilean newspapers published in the headlines of their Friday issues the statement issued by Chilean Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames saying that a reorganization of the Chilean Foreign Service must be made in accordance with the new domestic policy in line with the Chilean constitution. Rojas said, however, that this does not mean that there will be a reshuffle of ambassadors or diplomatic representatives, but rather that certain readjustments will be made in the country's domestic and foreign policy.

The newspaper EL MERCURIO states:

The minister said: We will have to plan our foreign policy in accord with the present international situation and the new objectives that the government has established at the domestic level.

Asked whether he thinks that criticism against Chile at the United Nations regarding the human rights issue will decrease, he said: We have already seen how the United States has adopted a clear position regarding these ill-intentioned attacks, the source of which everybody knows. He added: these criticisms must decrease since public opinion is tired of them, and the public is aware that this kind of campaign is really used by Marxist powers to hide shameful human rights violations in their own countries. Their present prey is Chile, but people are getting tired of this because of truth is always known in the international field.

Regarding a change of U.S. policy toward our country, Rojas Galdamez said that this is of great importance, since we have very strong ties with the United States at both the commercial and financial levels. Moreover, we have healthy diplomatic relations which we want to strengthen.

TERRORISTS CARRY OUT FIVE BOMB ATTACKS IN 24 HOURS

PY191352 Paris AFP in Spanish 2047 GMT 18 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 18 Mar (AFP)--Police sources have reported that during the past 24 hours five bomb attacks were carried out by terrorists in this capital. A haute couture shop and a cinema were totally destroyed as a result of the attacks.

Three other unexploded devices were found in two cinemas and a supermarket in this city.

NAVY SPOTS SOVIET, CUBAN, BULGARIAN SHIPS

PY210146 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] The Chilean Navy has confirmed that it has spotted Cuban, Soviet and Bulgarian fishing boats near the Chilean coast. In an official communique, it states that a navy plane spotted the communist ships during a routine patrol flight over the Chilean patrimonial sea.

The communique states: During a routine patrol flight over the Chilean patrimonial sea carried out yesterday, Thursday, a navy P-111 plane spotted six Soviet ships, nine Cuban ships and one Bulgarian ship fishing on the high seas, beyond the 2000-mile limit.

The communique adds that the navy has maintained a permanent surveillance on the above ships since last year, as has already been reported to the Chilean public.

ARGENTINE PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE ON BEAGLE SOLUTION

PY191316 Paris AFP in Spanish 0539 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 19 Mar (AFP)--According to reports released here, Gen Roberto Viola, who will assume the Argentine presidency on 29 March, today expressed optimism regarding a peaceful solution to the Beagle Channel conflict with Chile.

In an interview held in New York by a special envoy of the daily EL MERCURIO and published on Thursday, the future president stated: Regarding future relations between Chile and Argentina, I can tell you my desire that they always will be relations between two friends, between two brothers, as they have always been.

Asked about the prospects for a solution to the Southern border conflict, he stated: I am always optimistic.

Then he was asked whether one could expect from his presidency assurances for a peaceful solution, to which he answered: As I already told you, I am optimistic, and I certainly hope that it will be so.

SALVADORAN BISHOP OPPOSES MILITARY AID IN COUNTRY

PY191500 Paris AFP in Spanish 1416 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 19 Mar (AFP)--Salvadoran Bishop Arturo Rivera y Damas stated here today that the Catholic Church opposes the U.S. military aid to El Salvador's Government and condemns the aid of socialist nations to the guerrilla movements which are fighting the government.

Romero, who has been the top religious leader in El Salvador since the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero last year, is in Santiago, Chile participating in the 18th Conference of the Latin American Bishops Council (CELAM).

He indicated that the church wants a political and not an armed solution in the country, recalling that 12,000 persons died in the armed struggle between leftist rebels and government troops in 1980, and that 3,000 have already died this year.

He added that 3,000 other Salvadorans from both sides are threatened with death with no protection at all, and that they have sought refuge in church areas.

Bishop Rivera y Damas demanded the cessation of deliveries of weapons to both sides, the cancellation of exceptional laws imposed by the government and an end to sabotage and armed attacks by the opponents.

We oppose the U.S. and socialist interference in our affairs. We Salvadorans are capable of solving our own problems, the bishop stated.

Rivera mentioned, however, the alternative of mediation offered by the international Social Democrats, as a result of which the government of President Napoleon Duarte has expressed his willingness for dialogue, while the broad opposition front has accepted the mediation, he concluded.

GOVERNMENT BANISHES POLITICALLY INVOLVED STUDENT

PY210147 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Graciela Contreras report from La Moneda Palace]

[Excerpt] The Interior Ministry has ordered the banishment of (Jorge Espinoza Zamorano), a student at the State Technical University, due to his persistent involvement in political activities aimed at disrupting public order.

NEW FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PA190437 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Mar 81

[News conference by Carlos Lemos Simmons, Colombian foreign minister, shortly after being sworn into office on 16 March 1981 in Bogota--recorded]

[Text] [Lemos] Naturally, being foreign minister is a difficult task; the Foreign Ministry post is one of the most demanding. I am confident that I will act positively to be worthy of the trust of the president and that I will act to the best of my ability. I expect to have the cooperation of all my countrymen since the country's international situation is more dynamic than ever. We must understand that Colombia is opening up to the rest of the world and that this should give us great satisfaction. However, this implies a heavy responsibility for all of us.

[Question] There are two fundamental aspects interesting the people: the border differences with Venezuela and the matter of Panama because there seem to be complications. How do you see the situation?

[Answer] I believe that all international problems can be resolved when there are good intentions. Fortunately, both sister countries have expressed their good will. Naturally all these things take time and require patience above all. I hope to meet in the near future with my colleagues from Venezuela and Panama so we can discuss the problems and find solutions which the peoples of the three countries need and demand.

[Question] Will you do likewise with the other Andean foreign ministers?

[Answer] Naturally, I am looking forward to meeting with all of them. We have excellent relations and a historical and economic identification, so I am sure that I shall find among them the best spirit of cooperation so we can promptly solve our problems which are not too serious.

[Question] Do you believe we will find political solutions to the crisis affecting the Andean Group?

[Answer] I do not really think that we have a crisis in the Andean Group. What happens is that matters dealing with (?regional) negotiations always present problems. However, the integration spirit is firm. We confirmed this at the summit meeting in Santa Marta. I believe that the Andean Group faces a good future; it is one of the Latin American integration efforts that has worked. I admit we have regional problems, but they will be solved as long as we realize that we, the Latin American countries, cannot continue turning our backs on each other.

[Question] There have been comments on the politicizing of the Andean Group. Do you believe this?

[Answer] I do not believe that a politicizing of the Andean Group has occurred. What happens is that when there are different regimes there are always differences, but all this can be solved just as all problems are solved among countries that have relations.

[Question] What would be the most practical way to conduct a dialogue now with Venezuela?

[Answer] I think that this is a matter which must be analyzed with great care. Any statement on this would be premature. I would not like to comment on what President Herrera Campins or the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry is thinking. However, I would like to note that President Herrera Campins said in a speech that he would like the Colombians and Venezeulans to arrive at a satisfactory agreement based on the talks which are already in an advanced stage and which have attained some points of agreement.

[Question] Doesn't Colombia discard this hypothesis?

[Answer] No, I think that the hypothesis will be an extremely valuable working instrument in the future. Here we have reached some sort of agreement, and this base can be expanded. Naturally we must keep in mind that there are new circumstances but the agreements reached in these talks have created the best understanding during our long process of talks with Venezuela.

FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS RELATIONS WITH CUBA CHANGED

PA230343 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0319 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Bogota, 22 Mar (EFE)--Colombia announced this evening that relations with Cuba have had a surprising change following the statements made here by guerrillas about the training of Colombians in the Caribbean island.

Colombian Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmons today told the news media that his government is seriously studying such statements, according to which, guerrillas of the 19 April Movement [M-19] received training in Cuba to invade Colombia less than a week ago.

The Colombian official said: "This situation has caused our relations with Cuba to be viewed from a completely different perspective." He added: "The Foreign Ministry is seriously studying the statements made by the guerrillas to adopt a position in line with the new events." Lemos stated: "The situation completely changed from the moment of the first news on the guerrilla incursion in the country's south to the present moment with the statements of the guerrilla in Tolemaida." The Colombian minister concluded by stating: "We are very carefully studying the situation to take a position which will be announced at the proper moment."

One of the M-19 guerrillas arrested during the military operation carried out at the beginning of last week, Hermes Rodriguez Benitez, has said that the group was trained in Cuba to invade Colombia.

GOVERNMENT DEFEATS GUERRILLAS' OFFENSIVE

Government Minister Statement

PA192318 Paris AFP in Spanish 1857 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] Bogota, 19 Mar (AFP)--Government Minister German Zea Hernandez announced today that the Colombian Armed Forces have defeated a guerrilla offensive aimed at overthrowing the government.

He said Colombia had a very difficult time in the past few months because of an unusual reappearance of urban and rural guerrillas. Zea Hernandez noted, however, that "everything has been completely averted."

He stated: "Today the country is quiet." The minister then praised the antiguerrilla work of the army. Last week President Turbay restructured his cabinet but left Zea Hernandez in his post.

The minister praised the armed forces for having detected and defeated a guerrilla column in the south, near the border with Ecuador, as the guerrillas were introducing a shipment of arms and explosives in Colombian territory.

Zea Hernandez told Caracol Network that the capture by the army of two of the top leaders of the M-19, former congressman Carlos Toledo Plata and Rosemberg Pabon, "Commander Uno," will help pacify Colombia.

The two guerrilla leaders were arrested this week in the south following an army counteroffensive against the attackers of Mocoa, capital of Putumayo, where four persons died.

Military sources said that during that operation, 19 guerrillas died, 75 were captured and a big arsenal that included G3 rifles, bazookas, mortars, flamethrowers, rockets and ammunition was captured.

Zea Hernandez said: "I am sure the guerrillas will come to an end in Colombia because they don't have enough capacity to survive and much less to overthrow the present government." The minister admitted that "the situation has been dangerous, but everything has been averted."

He said the government expects now that the guerrillas will accept the conditional amnesty approved by Congress that will be proclaimed by President Turbay Ayala next week. Zea Hernandez said: "They have no other way to go but amnesty. Let them struggle on the legal path to change the institutions." The minister noted that the armed groups "have no possibility of gaining power Colombia."

Zea Hernandez said that although the guerrillas are receiving aid in the form of arms from some foreign country, they will never have enough power to force to overthrow the institutions "because the people don't want them, because they commit crimes, assaults and abuses."

The ministers said Colombia "is not in a desperate situation because we don't have a dictatorship here such as the one that dominated Nicaragua under Gen Anastasio Somoza." For this reason, Zea Hernandez discarded the possibility of a people's uprising.

Top Guerrilla Leader Flees

PA191856 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1753 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Bogota, 19 Mar (EFE)--Military sources said in Bogota today that Jaime Bateman Cayo, top leader of the 19 April (M-19) guerrilla movement in Colombia, has reportedly fled in haste to Panama.

Bateman Cayo may have fled to the neighboring country by sea from the Putumayo region on the Pacific coast because of a siege by military troops seeking to wipe out the subversive movement 8 days after the M-19 occupied the city of Mocoa.

More M-19 Leaders Arrested

PA200235 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0153 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Bogota, 19 Mar (EFE)--The Colombian Army announced today the arrest of more leaders of the 19 April Movement (M-19), including Evencio Ruiz, during an operation in a region near Ecuador.

Ruiz is the husband of Carmenza Londono, known as "La Chiqui," who participated in the occupation of the Dominican Embassy in Bogota on 27 February 1980, when 60 diplomats were held hostage for 61 days.

The military source indicated that other guerrillas of the group of 75 arrested were identified as Juvenal Cespedes, Pompilio Arango, Libardo Jaramillo, Climaco Martin, Jorge Cuja, Jose Ospina Henao, Pablo Tatay, Zoraida Tellez and Humberto Ruiz Gomez.

Another of those arrested is Elmer Marin, accused of directing and planning the kidnapping of Jose Raquel Mercado, president of the Colombian Workers Confederation (CTC),who was "executed" in a "people's prison" in 1976.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR'S RESIGNATION--Bogota--The national government has accepted the resignation tendered by the Colombian ambassador in Mexico, Julio Ortiz Marquez. A decree released today, signed by President Turbay and by the foreign minister, accepts his resignation. [Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Mar 81 PA]

REPORTAGE OF COLOMBIAN M-19 GUERRILLAS IN ECUADOR

PA210356 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1616 GMT 20 Mar 81

[By Libardo Aguirre Saenz]

[Text] Bogota, 20 Mar (EFE)--In the mountains of Ecuador, bordering Colombia, are several bodies of guerrillas and a group of the 19 April Movement [M-19] who 8 days ago were machinegunned by Colombian Air Force helicopters as they were fleeing.

The disclosure was made today by an Internal Revenue official of the Ecuadorean town of San Lorenzo, a Mr Chavez, over the Caracol Network in Bogota.

The Ecuadorean official said the people are afraid and that the Ecuadorean police have not gone into the mountains--40 kms from San Lorenzo--because the guerrillas are probably very angry about the attacks by the Colombian authorities.

"There are several dead in the mountains and perhaps some wounded. There is also a group of approximately 40 guerrillas," he said the official, adding that he received this information from Commander Uno himself, Rosemberg Pabon Pabon, who turned himself in to the San Lorenzo authorities.

The Colombian guerrillas, about 48 in all, entered Ecuadorean territory fleeing from Colombian troops who had uncovered a plan to seize several towns in the south.

Breaking up into small groups, the M-19 subversives scattered and over 70 of them were captured while about 20 were killed in combat.

It was also reported that all of the guerrillas who surrendered in San Lorenzo have been turned over to the Colombian authorities and transferred to the naval base at Puerto Tumaco.

However, the people there have not seen M-19 chiefs Toledo Plata and Pabon Pabon, who had been held under arrest for more than 8 days and were transferred this Friday to Bogota by the commander of the army, Gen Fernandez Landazabal Reyes.

One of the doctors at the Tumaco Hospital said today that he did not see the guerrillas' leaders, but he did see about 13 bodies of subversives who were killed in clashes between the M-19 and the army in southern Colombia.

Meanwhile, the military forces are apparently going to begin the final offensive this Friday to wipe out the guerrilla groups that are still fighting in the southwestern corner of the country (Tumaco, Pasto and Mocoa).

Over 10,000 men of the armed forces are in the area of these three cities pursuing the subversives by land, air and sea.

It was also reported from the petroleum port of Barrancabermeja in northeastern Colombia that Colombian television signals had been preempted by the guerrillas of the M-19 to announce that Dr Carlos Toledo Plata is not among those arrested in Ecuador.

M-19 Threat to Kill Leaders

PA201852 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Ecuadorean newspapers have reported that the Quito media yesterday received an anonymous [as heard] communique, written on paper with the letterhead of the 19 April Movement [M-19] and signed by the military forces of the southern front.

The document announces forceful reprisals against the president and government, foreign and defense ministers of Ecuador due to the Ecuadorean Government's decision to turn over the M-19 guerrillas to the Colombian military authorities. The M-19 querrillas entered Ecuador seeking political asylum.

The communique says: [From] the M-19 guerrilla movement to the Ecuadorean Government. Having learned of the latest events in Esmeraldas Province this organization, with all due respect for the Ecuadorean Government, but with the revolutionary determination to demand just treatment for our militants, declares:

1. We totally and with revolutionary firmness reject the cowardly turnover of 15 of our militants to the bloodthirsty puppet Colombian Army without any legal proceedings whatsoever and leaving all decisions up to the guerrillas' whims.

2. We reject the statements of Government Minister Carlos Feraud Blum and those of the information secretary, who are trying to distort the true nature of our organization so as to justify the release of our companions [to the military authorities] to face torture and death.

3. When 23 of our companions turned themselves in, unarmed, to the political authorities and rural police of San Lorenzo they were asking for protection. To the contrary, however, this government--with an unheard of decision--forgot all the principles of international law and sent our militants to the gallows.

4. We blame the fate of our companions on the president of the republic, lawyer Jaime Roldos Aguilera; on Vice President Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea; and on the government, defense and foreign ministers.

5. The organization will take forceful reprisals against the responsible parties listed above for having committed high treason against the cause of the Latin American peoples. We demand a radical change in this government's attitude regarding our companions, otherwise they will have to bear the consequences.

The communique is signed by the military forces of the southern front.

Foreign Minister on Threat

PA210350 Paris AFP in Spanish 2251 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Quito, 20 Mar (AFP)--Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Alfonso Barrera stated that if the note threatening the president, the vice president and the cabinet ministers is true, "this sole threat would eliminate all commentary and would describe the purpose of the M-19 group's presence in Ecuador."

Barrera issued a press release announcing that policy statements on the guerrilla issue will be released next week.

The foreign minister noted that the guerrilla group's threat, if true, could change this attitude since it is a basic principle of Equador's foreign policy that has been repeatedly demonstrated, even during Peru's recent armed attacks, "not to allow threats or the use of force in any form."

Interior Minister on Situation

PA230014 Paris AFP in Spanish 1652 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Quito, 22 Mar (AFP)--Ecuadorean Government Minister Carlos Feraud denied today that his country's situation favors the emergence of guerrillas. He said that Ecuador's standard of living is much higher than that of other countries having acute economic crisis.

Nevertheless, the government takes steps to prevent the importation of a guerrilla, which in Feraud's opinion, could harm the country greatly.

The minister explained that the recent turning over of 19 April Movement (M-19) guerrillas to the Colombian Armed Forces and Government is the result of an agreement, between the two countries, to give practical solutions to situations of this nature.

He also said that his government tries to preserve its identity as a country that does not have this type of problem and does not want to have them in the future.

This is why Colombian problems, the guerrillas in this case, should be solved by the Colombians themselves as they best see fit, Carlos Feraud added.

He said that, "if we look at the map of America we shall see several countries that are having serious problems caused by the presence of guerrilla movements trying to destabilize the democratic systems," existing in these countries.

Under these circumstances, the minister added, the government believes that "peace, domestic security and the essential order so that all sectors can work in their respective fields, with absolute freedom, must be preserved."

The minister said that, according to this policy, the government had to return the M-19 guerrillas to the Colombian Armed Forces and Government.

The secretary of state said that one cannot talk of asylum from a legal point of view "in the case of armed groups."

He said that the M-19 guerrillas entered Ecuador carrying weapons and that "we have these weapons."

Since this is not a case of asylum, he added, and applying a principle of reciprocity, the Ecuadorean Government returned the guerrillas.

He recalled that last year Colombia, without any extradition proceedings, had returned the men who murdered a Quito industrialist in November 1977. These men had sought asylum in Colombia claiming membership in the M-19. [as received]

He admitted that there had been some criticism from sectors invoking the human rights doctrines. "However," he said, "it would be well to note the M-19's criminal record which is rather extensive."

Minister Feraud said that the guerrillas are involved in murders, robberies, attacks, kidnappings and the murder of kidnap victims.

"These are," he added, "violent actions practically placing them under the penal code and not exactly in a position to demand political asylum."

He recalled that political asylum is a right recognized by a number of international agreements clearly determining the cases in which it is applicable, that is to say, when a person is being persecuted for his political ideas. Naturally, this person has the right to request asylum in a friendly country.

"In such cases," he concluded, "asylum can be granted, but not when it is a matter of armed groups in an openly subversive attitude."

ROYO, LOPEZ PORTILLO SIGN JOINT COMMUNIQUE

PA200426 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Joint communique signed by Panamanian President Aristides Royo and Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo 19 March in Mexico City--read by Televisora Nacional news director Mario Velasquez; live from Mexico City via telephone]

[Text] At the invitation of the president of the United States of Mexico, Jose Lopez Portillo, the president of the Republic of Panama, Dr Aristides Royo, paid an official visit to Mexico from 17 through 20 March 1981 accompanied by his wife, Mrs Adela Ruiz de Royo, and a party that included members of his cabinet and high-ranking officials of the Panamanian Government.

The two presidents continued the dialogue they opened at the beginning of their respective administrations and which they renewed very cordially on the occasion of the implementation of the new Panama Canal treaties and the establishment by Mexico and Venezuela of an energy cooperation program for the Central American and Caribbean countries.

Encouraged by the feelings of brotherhood and solidarity which have traditionally existed between Mexico and Panama, the two presidents examined the most important issues being discussed at the world level and at the regions level, placing great attention to the problems of the Central American and Caribbean countries. The two presidents reiterated the wishes of their respective peoples to live in peace as good neighbors with the others in the region, respecting their ideological, economic, political, social and cultural differences.

In such a spirit they reaffirmed the support of their governments and peoples for the principles and purposes of the UN and OAS Charters, and particularly the principles of international law concerning relations of friendship and cooperation among states. They reiterated their concern over the political and economic worsening of the international situation, entailing possibly a return to the Cold War, the arms race and the dispute over the areas of influence, inflationary trends, economic recession, unjust trade terms, the rising cost of technology and imported industrial products--all issues which have a direct influence on the weak and lesser-developed countries.

They also advocated the total elimination in Africa, Asia and Latin America of colonialism, hegemonism, racism and racial discrimination in all forms. They condemned violence, repression and terrorism as means for imposing the political will of the privileged minorities over the democratization wishes of the people's majorities. The two presidents were deeply pleased to note the excellent relations which, through consultation and cooperation, have always existed between their respective permanent missions to international organizations. Therefore they considered it a fortunate coincidence that Mexico and Panama are holding the two seats in 1981 assigned to Latin America in the Security Council. This is, therefore, an excellent occasion for the two sister nations to coordinate their efforts andolicies in the search for negotiated solutions to the serious international problems which are the concern of that council.

The Panamanian president voiced his definite support for the historical presentation made by President Lopez Portillo at the United Nations in September 1979 on a world energy plan as part of a international economic order. They recognized that adopting specific cooperation measures between developing countries represents a basic element for establishment of a new international economic order.

The two presidents noted the importance in today's international situation of the New Dehli Declaration, adopted by the most recent conference of the nonaligned countries and addressed to all nations, peoples and leaders so they will make serious efforts to prevent war and consolidate international peace and security. They recognized the importance of the declaration because they feel that nonalignment is an independent moral and political force in international relations and a positive factor for peace and security in the world.

The two presidents reaffirmed their support for the great task of unifying and integrating Latin America, first begun in the Congress of Panama in 1826, which was convoked by Bolivar and left unfinished in Tacubaya. In this respect, they agreed that the calls for Latin American solidarity and the efforts made by the Liberator, and which have been renewed over and over again in the hemisphere throughout its independent history, continue to have great importance in our days of political and economic crisis.

The two presidents said they are in favor of a policy that seeks to preserve the right to self-determination and the principle of nonintervention in Latin America. The two presidents voiced their most serious concern over the situation in El Salvador and hoped the Salvadorans will reach a political solution which will allow them to renew their institutions and restore internal peace, without any foreign intervention or pressures. To this effect, they voiced the willingness of Mexico and Panama to cooperate in this respect, in the measure to which the Salvadorans themselves may consider it useful.

President Lopez Portillo and President Royo said they were very pleased over the friendly understanding between Guatemala and Great Britain, with the participation of Belize, which assures the independence this year of that sister nation of Central America. They agreed to give their cooperation to the new state of Belize so it will join, as soon as it proclaims its independence, the international organizations it may wish to join in exercising its self-determination.

On behalf of their respective governments, they offered to increase their enthusiastic support for the Latin American Economic System as the most adequate and representative organization of the region in matters of coordinating Latin American economic policy and in economic relations with third countries and public international associations of economic cooperation.

Likewise they agreed that their countries' representatives to the seventh regular meeting of the Latin American Council, to be held in Caracas from 30 March through 1 April 1981, will make all efforts to achieve a common and coordinated stand in Latin America as to the terms of the program, and particularly concerning those related to the overall negotiations, the economic and technical cooperation between developing countries and the promotion of more just economic relations of Latin America with the European Economic Community and the United States of America.

Concerning the latter, they agreed that the consultative meeting on economic relations between Latin America and the United States, which the Sixth Latin American Council agreed to hold this year, has special importance, and therefore it is deemed advisable that the meeting be held at the highest political level, preferably at the level of foreign ministers.

The two presidents agreed that the Latin American Energy Organization is the best international organization to discuss all matters of energy and noted the importance their two countries give to the adoption as soon as possible of a Latin American energy cooperation program.

The two presidents also noted the importance of the Caribbean Multinational Shipping Line as an element of subregional integration and cooperation and reaffirmed the advisability that, to the measure it may be possible, this will be the means to be used for transporting petroleum in the energy cooperation program for Central America and the Caribbean.

The presidents examined the implementation of the Panama Canal treaties, particularly the problems over Law 96-70, approved by the U.S. Congress. They agreed to voice their common wishes that when that law is revised, the observations made on this law by the Panamanian Government in notes addressed to the U.S. Government will be taken into consideration. In these notes the Panamanian Government pointed out that this law is hindering the achievement of the main objective of the treaties, which is that of making effective Panama's full sovereignty and jurisdiction over all of its national territory and all of its natural resources.

President Royo thanked the Mexican Government and people for their support at all times for the Panamanian claims on the canal issue. They reaffirmed the rights of the states to the exploitation of their natural resources and the full exercise of their sovereignty over all their national territory, demanding the strict fulfillment of the Torrijos-Carter treaties within the correct interpretation of the same.

President Royo expressed the recognition of the Panamanian Government and people for the energy cooperation program for Central America and the Caribbean established by the presidents of Mexico and Venezuela in the San Jose Protocol on 3 August 1980. President Royo said the supply of crude oil to Panama by the Mexican petroleum enterprise Pemex is very important for Panama and is a stimulating example of economic cooperation between developing countries.

They voiced their satisfaction because during the visit complete information has been given on the financial mechanism to be applied in the program. The two presidents agreed that necessary measures be adopted for establishing a mechanism of cooperation between the two countries in matters of oil exploration in Panama. They said they hoped the negotiations continue for conclusion of a trade agreement between Mexico and Panama and that, while the negotiations are still being conducted, an agreement be reached on provisional procedures that will make it possible to increase cooperation immediately in this respect.

They were pleased to note the participation of Mexican enterprises in international bids in Panama, particularly in the fields of engineering and construction, and they voiced their hope that this participation will increase.

The presidents examined Panama's interest that Mexico participate in its tourism development program by providing technical cooperation and facilities for training personnel in this field. They agreed to exchange socio-cultural packages on tourism and in promoting tourism programs for workers of both countries. In this respect, they instructed the members of their cabinets to prepare a plan of action with specific goals, setting terms and dates for such action.

The two presidents were pleased to receive a report to the effect that the current arrangements on plant and animal health between the two countries are operating well.

The presidents of Mexico and Panama agreed on the valuable role of cultural and educational relations in strengthening and deepening the ties joining the two countries and they congratulated themselves because the exchange programs in this field are being carried out satisfactorily.

They recalled Resolution 31-142 adopted by the UN General Assembly to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama and therefore agreed to make joint efforts with the other Latin American countries so that all countries in the area will cooperate in order to construct a monument in Panama City to Latin American freedom and unity. The original documents of the Amphictyonic Congress of 1826, which are kept in Rio de Janeiro and which the Brazilian Government has decided to bring to Panama, would be kept inside that monument.

The president of Panama, Dr Aristides Royo, thanked the president of Mexico, Jose Lopez Portillo, and his distinguished wife, Mrs Carmen Romano de Lopez Portillo, for the hospitality offered to him and his distinguished wife, Mrs Adela Ruiz de Royo, and his party during their stay in Mexico.

Issued in Mexico City on 19 March 1981.

Royo News Conference

PA201249 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Telephone report from Mexico City by Televisora Nacional News director Mario Velasquez]

[Excerpts] I am speaking to you from Mexico City to give you a report on a news conference which Panamanian President Aristides Royo has just hosted in the Camino Real Hotel.

The various newsmen there asked him about the communist influence in Central America, voicing their concern over the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. President Royo said he was aware that some evidence or documents had been presented on the arms trafficking to the Salvadoran guerrillas, but that the Panamanian Government condemns any intervention or internationalization of the Salvadoran conflict or any other Central American conflict.

President Royo said he was concerned about the possibility of the Central American and Caribbean areas becoming areas of confrontation between the interests of the United States and Russia.

Asked about the training of U.S. troops in the canal area, President Royo said that this was beyond the control of the Panamanian Government, and that he deplored it, but not until the year 2000 would Panama have full control of the canal and then the last U.S. soldier would be leaving our country.

Another newsman asked him about the United States not fulfilling the treaties, and then asked about Law 96-70. President Royo recognized that the United States has repeatedly violated the Torrijos-Carter treaties and that one of these violations is the one subjecting the Canal Commission, the power or authority of the Canal Commission, to the secretary of defense of the U.S. Government in Washington. He also said that the Panamanian workers are the victims of discrimination in the Canal Zone by virtue of that law.

One newsman asked if General Torrijos was acting as a mediator in the Salvadoran conflict. President Royo said that neither General Torrijos nor Panama was mediating in that internal conflict. The newsmen persisted in their questions on the Salvadoran problem. President Royo brought up the joint communique, and said that Panama and Mexico offered their good offices, as long as the Salvadorans so accepted it.

Another newsman asked if Panama was worried about the possibility of building a dry canal, a canal using land transportation and railroads. The Panamanian president said no, that Panama was not worried at all about this, because the construction of a dry canal or any other type of canal in Mexico or any other Central American country was a matter of competition, of sovereignty, and of the self-determination of the country involved.

He was also asked how Panama was going to pay for the petroleum it was going to purchase from Mexico. He referred that question to the minister of planning and economic policy, Doctor Perez Balladares, who explained that 30 percent of the oil bill would be deposited in the National Bank of Mexico and that, through low interests, this would create a fund that would be used for the development of our countries. [sentence as heard] He was also asked about the volume of the purchase of oil, and Dr Royo said that the Panamanian consumption amounts to 25,000 barrels daily.

In conclusion, the president was asked what Panama could do to prevent that the canal area from being used to train troops which might intervene in other countries. Dr Royo said that Panama had to shout and protest and denounce the use of the canal area for such purposes.

TORRIJOS INTERVIEW ON CENTRAL AMERICAN AFFAIRS

PA230057 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Mar 81 p 5A

[Rafael Bolivar Ayala column: "Torrijos on the International Stage"]

[Text] The latest issue of NUMERO UNO magazine published in Spain carries an interview with General Omar Torrijos by newsman Joaquin Soler Serrano, covering several topics and personal comments.

Question: Do you have few friends?

Answer: Very few.

Question: Politically, which are your closest friends?

Answer: Fidel and Carter.

Question: That is paradoxical.

Answer: Not really. If you analyze them carefully, you will see that they are the same.

Question: Will you be a candidate in the next presidential elections? Would you assume power if the people voted for you?

Answer: I will not be a candidate. People are not going to believe me, however. Wait until 1984, and I will prove to everyone that being a candidate is not among my aspirations.

Question: Can it be said that you start revolutionary fires in Central America?

Answer: One of my greatest satisfactions is that the Sandinist generation allowed me the honor of helping in the overthrow and elimination of one of the cruelest, bloodiest and most dastardly dynasties that Latin America has ever had. I am proud to say this because that generation--which for 50 years was struggling against Somoza, furnishing the dead while Somoza furnished the bullets--allowed me to participate. I had met with them long ago and I realized that someone who sees his people being murdered and does not do anything is as criminal as the murderer.

Question: Will the victory of the Sandinist revolution be decisive in Central America's geopolitical change?

Answer: Yes, because examples are always followed. The other peoples in the area will follow the Sandinist example and will place Central America on the threshold of a new political system. This can be seen clearly in El Salvador and Guatemala. In Honduras, the government, wisely, is effecting the change through elections in order to avoid violence.

Question: What about President Reagan?

Answer: He is also going to be decisive, but in the opposite sense. I think things are looking bleak for Central America, but in the end the rights of the people will prevail over force.

Question: Will this sprouting of revolutionary activity in neighboring countries be dangerous to Panama?

Answer: Yes, it is disturbing because those struggles are being waged in countries close to ours. I warned 10 years ago that we had to make changes here or that those elements of Panamanian society who did not find solutions to their problems would seek them through their own means.

There were other questions which we regard as very interesting because of the precise answers that General Torrijos made, and which clearly show the position adopted by the commander of Panama's National Guard. We will comment on them tomorrow.

BELIZE

PROTEST CONTINUES AGAINST UK-GUATEMALA ACCORD

FL202050 Bridgetown CANA in English 2035 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Belize City, Belize, 20 Mar, (CANA)--Police have arrested 86 riotous Belizeans who went on the rampage through the city, looting and wrecking in protest against an Anglo-Guatemalan accord for settling the latter's century-old land claim to this country. A police spokesman said a number of people had been charged with offenses including looting and damage to property.

Today members of the Belize Defense Force guarded such strategic points as government headquarters, the radio station and telecommunications center. Troops from the British garrison were moved into Belize City yesterday, but did not go into action, and later moved back to their barracks. The British have maintained an estimated 1,700 troops and equipment, including Harrier jump jets, here in face of the Guatemalan threat to invade to assert its territorial claim.

Police suspect involvement in the demonstrations of the opposition United Democratic Party. The trouble followed an all-day conference Wednesday of the party's youth section. The demonstrators alleged that the accords grant of occupation by Guatemala of two small Belizean islands in the Caribbean was a sell-out of national territory.

The situation in the city was calm but tense today, and the police spokesman said opposition activity was being closely watched.

PRICE SAYS UK TROOPS TO REMAIN AFTER INDEPENDENCE

PA221942 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1734 GMT 22 Mar 81

[By Ricardo Gatica Trejo]

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The British troops which have maintained Belize's external security for many years will remain there until "further notice."

Belizean Prime Minister George Price, interviewed in his office by ACAN-EFE, said that the British troops will remain in his young country until long after independence.

There is no hurry for the British to leave the country, Price added. Meanwhile, the training of the "Belize Defense Forces" continues, also under the British.

Some 15,000 English soldiers made up the British crown forces in this territory, where races vary from the blacks of Western Africa to Central European whites.

These soldiers are complemented by a dozen vertical takeoff Harrier airplanes, amphibian equipment, Puma troop transport helicopters, communications equipment and other materiel.

These troops maintain an undisclosed number of radar-equipped guard posts on the border with Guatemala.

Price's future appears assured militarily, and in the diplomatic sphere he has already been assured of the support of the small black communities of the Caribbean.

In a meeting held in this administrative capital, representatives of small black nations of the Caribbean expressed "their political, military, social and economic support for the new people of Belize."

Another round of negotiations among representatives of Belize, Guatemala and Great Britain is scheduled to be held in London on 20 May, when more details on the independence of the territory will be released.

Price insists that he has not ceded territory to Guatemala, but his political opponents do not see things that way and have summoned their people into the streets to protest. The opposition says that the Zapotillo Cay, a cay with an area of 3 sq km, "is territory and that it will go to Guatemala," although Honduras also claims it.

Despite everything, Belize is now on the way to independence after some 20 years under the leadership of Price, 65, whom Belizeans consider to be a man of supernatural powers.

PREMIER PRICE LEAVES FOR PANAMA, VENEZUELA

FL210204 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] The premier, the honorable George Price, has flown to the Republic of Honduras on his way to Panama. He will also visit Venezuela. During his absence, the deputy premier, the honorable C.L.B, Rogers, will act as premier.

COSTA RICA

SECURITY MINISTER SAYS NO CLUES YET ON TERRORISTS

PA210252 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Public Security Minister Arnulfo Carmona Benavides regrets that there are no clues to the terrorists responsible for the two explosions last Tuesday. I would like to tell the people who they are, but I do not have any clues to their identity, Carmona Benavides admitted.

He explained that agents from the Judicial Investigation Organization, Immigration Department and the Civil Guard are investigating, but so far no one has come up with the identity of the terrorists.

Carmona Benavides tried to explain that terrorism is hard to control because no one can know the exact moment terrorists are going to strike. Even the best police forces in the world have been baffled by terrorists. However, he added, I am certain terrorism will not continue in Costa Rica because the people are opposed to such actions.

He asked the people to cooperate with the authorities in trying to stop terrorism, which has claimed many victims in other parts of the world.

JAMAICAN FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH CARAZO

PA201514 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Neville Gallimore, Jamaican minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Costa Rica yesterday and met with President Rodrigo Carazo. The Jamaican minister said that he is on a courtesy visit to deliver to the Costa Rican president a message of gratitude from his government for the efforts made to achieve an energy agreement with Venezuela and Mexico.

Gallimore said that Jamaica and Costa Rica have had close relations for many years. During his visit, he will meet with government officials to discuss the expansion of bilateral trade. Costa Rica has many products that are in great demand in Jamaica and an increase of trade could be established very soon, he added. The Jamaican minister is touring several Central American countries.

CORRECTION TO FOREIGN MINISTRY COMMUNIQUE

The following is a correction to the item entitled "Foreign Ministry Communique" published on page P 6 of the Costa Rica section of the 18 March Latin America DAILY REPORT.

The first paragraph should read: "The government of the republic, deeply shocked by the terrorist attacks perpetrated today which affected three officials of the U.S. Embassy in Costa Rica and a citizen of this country, as well as harming the embassy of the brother Republic of Honduras, expresses its most heartfelt feelings of solidarity and pain over the incidents that have occurred," filling in interruptions and transmission breaks.

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE DISCUSSES BASES FOR MEDIATION, DIALOGUE

PY201941 Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 13 Mar 81 pp 10-11

[Text of "exclusive" interview granted by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte to SOMOS correspondent Tabare Areas; date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] Is your government staggering?
[Answer] I would say that we have had a year in which we have been staggered every week because the extreme left and the extreme right are continually trying to knock us down--but we are resisting.

[Question] With which of the two extremes do you find it more difficult to negotiate, the right or the left?
[Answer] I believe the two sectors are equally difficult because both of them are intransigent. Both sectors seek power for the sake of power, and they do not care about the interests of the people--the right because it wants to maintain its privileges and the left because it wants to impose Marxist totalitarianism--so both sides are difficult to deal with.

[Question] Why do you accept the mediation of social democracy to solve the Salvadoran problem?
[Answer] I believe that social democracy has been caught in a trap because the Salvadoran socialist groups are committed to the communists and guerrilla groups through the democratic front. This leaves social democracy in a difficult position, and it now has to find a way out because it cannot conpletely turn back. It does not want to give up its philosophy and its democratic principles and therefore they want to hold a dialogue, to talk.

[Question] Do you talk with them?
[Answer] Why not? I talk to anyone who wants a democratic solution.

[Question] Why is international Christian democracy so interested in intervening in the Salvadoran problem?
[Answer] Christian democracy wants a solution according to its own principles. It has placed its faith in a democratic solution and in this humble servant, and that faith has caused some difficult moments.

[Question] Specifically, how can the mediation be structured?
[Answer] Well, they are two world political forces and they can exchange ideas to see if they can contribute in seeking feasible formulas to find a solution.

[Question] But if they talk with each other, what would then be your role as president of El Salvador?
[Answer] I am governing; therefore, I cannot talk to just anyone who comes to see me to discuss solutions. I govern and hold dialogues within El Salvador. There must be a way to reach a solution.

[Question] Which will be your role then?
[Answer] The only thing I will do is establish, temporarily, the bases for the country to begin a democratic process and make its own decisions. Those who believe in this will be welcome.

[Question] Taking into account the current situation, how long would you need to achieve this?
[Answer] According to our plan, a minimum of 1 year. For this reason we are calling for elections at the beginning of next year. We feel that the electoral factor will favor us both domestically and externally, in addition to increasing our credibility.

[Question] What are the guerrillas' plans at this moment?
[Answer] They changed their strategy before the offensive at the beginning of this year--from a political strategy they changed to a military one. We did the opposite; we changed from the military to the political. They have always been active politically and now feel that it is time for military action. Thus, they have begun to purchase weapons, to occupy towns, to train guerrilla groups, to kill people, etc.

[Question] What happens now?
[Answer] The people are beginning to turn their backs on the guerrillas. The people are fundamentally hoping for peaceful solutions similar to what we are proposing, to a point that today the guerrillas are no longer capable of calling for a meeting, as they used to do, with 10,000 or 15,000 persons. And this is leading them to launch a final offensive. They are calling for a great action when they have no power to summon , and this is their main error. Thus, the army defeats them militarily and the people defeat them politically.

[Question] If a dialogue with the Revolutionary Democratic Front is proposed to you, what will you do?
[Answer] I have always said that I am ready to talk with anyone. And if the front wants to talk with me, they are welcome but the conditions must be set beforehand.

[Question] Do you think the front can offer democratic guarantees to the country?
[Answer] Ah...that is their problem, not mine. I am offering a democratic solution to the country. If they do not accept it, it is because they prefer the military solution, and I am not to be blamed for that.

[Question] If you talk with them, aren't you recognizing their status as a fighting group?
[Answer] By no means. Disregarding the fact that there are social sectors which have influence on the front is disregarding the real situation and society. We have talked with the church, with politicians, with labor unions, with the military, with all sectors that have some power. Thus, talking with an influential sector does not mean a polarization of powers.

[Question] What imposition would you not accept from the front in a round of negotiations?
[Answer] Dialogue has a premise: that of working to strengthen a democratic regime. If there are sectors that do not believe in this, they try to talk in terms of taking power, and we will not allow that.

[Question] And if they insist?
[Answer] We will not discuss it. Besides, we feel that the final decisions will be made by the Salvadoran people, and no minority group will be able to impose its desires.

[Question] The left and the right concur in saying that you have no representation at all.
[Answer] I say that we must wait to hear what the people have to say. So far, the results contradict that statement because the political theory we are implementing has support--and a conscious support, not an emotional support of the masses.

[Question] Has the church offered its mediation?
[Answer] Yes, our relations are satisfactory, and we can maintain a fluent dialogue.

[Question] What is Col Arnaldo Majano's situation? Will he be able to participate in the electoral process?

[Answer] In military terms, Majano is under arrest for his military behavior and not for his political behavior, which is a different thing. Regarding his political future, I think he lacks the necessary conditions to become a powerful man, beyond his charismatic personality.

DUARTE ASKS MORE 'FLEXIBILITY' OF AMNESTY OFFICIALS

PA210258 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 81 p 4, 55

[Excerpts] Jose Napoleon Duarte, chairman of the governing junta, yesterday asked for greater flexibility by the amnesty commission members so that all those who want to leave the terrorist ranks can feel protected.

Duarte suggested to the commission that other officials such as governors and mayors have the same power as the commission members to issue safe-conducts and protect those who want to return to their normal lives, that is, to their families.

According to previous reports, so far about 1,500 individuals who belonged to the terrorist groups have turned themselves in to the authorities. This means that desertions are continuous and, since it has been learned that many are afraid to leave the terrorists because they think they lack guarantees or that publicity has been wanting in this respect, Duarte himself is now looking for a better way to protect those who doubt the benefits of the law.

The three commission members learned of Duarte's request and of the more wide-ranging scope that the commission will have when the mayors and governors are allowed to provide legal protection to those who want to reincorporate themselves into society, their jobs or their studies.

MAJANO RELEASED, REPORTEDLY HAS LEFT COUNTRY

PA202237 Paris AFP in Spanish 2216 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (AFP)--Col Adolfo Arnoldo Majano, former member of the Salvadoran Government junta, has been released "for lack of cause for detention," a ranking military source stated here today. Majano, who has not been discharged from the army and who could in the future be assigned to any post, has reportedly left the country, according to the source.

CLOCKS SET BACK 22 MAR, CURFEW REDUCED 1 HOUR

PA202228 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1813 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpt] As of Sunday, 22 March, the official national time will go back to being the same as it was before Decree 544 went into effect, as set forth in Decree 625 of the revolutionary governing junta. It has been reported that on Saturday at midnight clocks will be set back 60 minutes so we will be back to the former official time early Sunday.

Curfew From 2200 to 0500

PA220339 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1743 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Attention: As of Sunday, 22 March, the curfew or martial law will be in effect from 2200 to 0500. We repeat: As of Sunday, 22 March, the curfew has been reduced by 1 hour; that is, the prohibition against being out in the streets will be from 2200 and ends at 0500. Remember: As of Sunday, 22 March, the curfew or martial law is in effect from 2200 to 0500.

GUTIERREZ: REBELS FIGHTING 'WAR OF ATTRITION'

PA211842 Paris AFP in Spanish 1612 GMT 21 Mar 81

[By Oscar Martinez]

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Mar (AFP)--In an exclusive interview with AFP, Col Abdul Gutierrez, vice president of the military-civilian junta, said that the Salvadoran problem is a continental one because of all the forces that are involved in it, but for the moment it is unlikely that the conflict will be internationalized.

The number two man in El Salvador added that the final offensive launched by the guerrillas in January failed, that the rebels have now turned to a war of attrition, and that data is presently being evaluated to determine whether they have the capacity to launch another massive attack at any moment.

Moreover, the Colonel said that the guerrillas have sophisticated weapons, while the army's weapons are obsolete. He added that Latin American advisers are cooperating with the insurgents. In this continental problem, Gutierrez said, military aid is important.

"We are going into the mountains where the armed rebels are located. We are fully capable of eliminating them gradually, but this is not a very simple war," he said. However, he added, "this depends on the efforts made by the communist countries to help the subversives."

Colonel Gutierrez also ruled out cooperation from neighboring Honduras and Guatemala because "each has its own problems." He also expressed doubt about any immediate internationalization of the conflict because, "their offensive and their instructions are aimed at controlling El Salvador. All the propaganda has been directed to that end. They are not talking about Honduras and are saying very little about Guatemala."

According to the Colonel, "all the propaganda and the diplomatic offensive that was launched sought to bring about the international isolation of El Salvador." He said: "No army can triumph without popular support. The guerrillas here have hardly any."

Col Abdul Gutierrez then gave a sort of sketchy overview of the January offensive--the plans and the reason for its failure.

The armed forces estimate guerrilla strength at 10,000, as opposed to an army of between 17,000 and 20,000 men, the vice president said. He added: "In November they spoke of 2,800 guerrillas, although three elements are involved here. In addition to the guerrillas themselves, there are the militiamen and cooperating masses.'

In their all-out assault, the insurgents divided the country into four main zones. The first, or rearguard, consisted of the northern part of the departments of Chalatenango, Cabanas, Morazan and the entire Central area.

Upon failing in most places, they concentrated the greatest possible forces in San Francisco Gotera in order to control the Morazan and La Union areas in the gulf in order to receive supplies from abroad, Gutierrez said.

The second important zone, or the head, consisted of the metropolitan area--San Salvador and its environs. "They sought to consolidate themselves here because it is the seat of government," the colonel said.

However, they were also unsuccessful here because the attack was not strong enough to control an area in the central zone.

The third region, the paracentral or backbone, included San Vicente, La Paz and part of Cuscatlan Departments.

The fourth was the western region, where they were trying to control what they termed "our rearguard, that of the country, of El Salvador. They felt that it was through there that reinforcements could be sent to the government." However, we quickly controlled the situation in Santa Ana and the areas of Metapan and Chalchuapa, three main points of attack, Gutierrez stressed.

In view of this failure, the vice president said, the guerrillas went on to the second phase of the war, that of attrition, demoralization and harassment. Now they are engaged in ambushes, the destruction of bridges and powerlines, attacks against small towns, derailment of trains and the burning of factories and warehouses where the country's wealth, such as coffee and cotton, are being stored, the colonel stressed.

Anyway, the enemy is not being underestimated and "we are evaluating the courses of action which are most unfavorable to us in order to prevent them from launching another offensive at any time," the military officer conceded.

The guerrillas have advisers of all nationalities, especially Latin Americans. However, there is evidence that they have Americans and that "they have brought some Germans too."

Moreover, the rebels' weapons are "much more sophisticated and modern than those of the army, which are obsolete," Gutierrez admitted. The guerrillas have good-quality rifles such as the Galil, the FAL, the M-16 and the AR-15. They also have U.S.-made rocket launchers such as the RPG-79 [as received; persumably the Soviet-made RPG-7] recoilless rifles and 81-mm mottars.

He explained that the lack of modernization in the armed forces was due to the suspension of military aid in 1976 and the boycott by European countries. "This aid was just resumed in 1980 at the request of the Salvadoran junta."

In addition, he maintained that there are no permanent troops in the armed forces because military service is for 1 and 1/2 years without reenlistment obligation. For this reason, there are many inexperienced young soldiers at this time.

He would not comment on the status of his former junta comrade, Col Arnoldo Majano, who is currently facing a court-martial. He only noted that "what happened to Majano will be opportunely announced." He admitted that Majano is only being accused of neglecting his work by publicly rejecting a foreign post. If Majano is found guilty, he will be sentenced to 6 months in prison and then probably discharged.

FMLN CALLS FOR 24-HOUR HALT TO OFFENSIVE 24 MAR

PA230227 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Communique issued by general headquarters of Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, San Salvador on 21 March]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], whereas:

1. On 24 March our country will commemorate the first anniversary of the murder of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, dear pastor of our people;

2. Monsignor Romero was a spokesman for peace, justice and liberty and for this reason he was assassinated by the enemies of our people, the genocidal junta and U.S. imperialism, through the CIA and the most reactionary army sector;

3. Our forces are forces of peace, justice and liberty, and these are reasons that motivate us to remain on a warfooting against those who impede the happiness of our people and have murdered men, such as Monsignor Romero, who sought peace and justice by promoting understanding among the people;

4. Our revolutionary forces are made up of Christian people and revolutionaries who respect the religious beliefs of our people;

Considering all these reasons, and in order to help the Salvadoran people commemorate this meaningful date, the FMLN states its sadness and [words indistinct] Monsignor Romero, resolves:

1. To halt in all the offensive military actions for 24 hours beginning at 2400 hours on 23 March and concluding at 2400 on 24 March. Sabotage, harassment, the seizing of towns and other offensive actions will be suspended when they do not affect the defense of our positions.

2. At all guerrilla fronts and areas under the control of our forces, there should be religious and political events commemorating the date.

3. The forces that at this moment are defending their positions as a result of enemy incursions, must maintain and continue their defensive military activities to keep the enemy from taking control of our positions and killing the civilian population.

4. On 24 March, at 2400, all the rural and urban units must immediately renew, according to plans, their offensive actions in all the war fronts.

We call on the people to participate in all the religious activities that will take place on that day and in the general tolling of the bell that will take place throughout the country at 1800 on 24 March. The residents in neighborhoods, villages and cantons should make sounds with iron bars and other metallic objects as a sign of mourning.

Political, social and religious organizations of the world, we invite you to support the commemoration of the first anniversary of the murder of Monsignor Romero by carrying out whatever activities are possible for you in order to increase the solidarity toward our people, who are struggling for definite liberation.

United to win until final victory! Revolution or death, we shall win!

REPORTAGE ON GOVERNMENT, GUERRILLA COMBAT ACTIONS

Counterinsurgency Operations

PA210321 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Mar 81 pp 2, 23

[Excerpt] The use of incendiary bombs by terrorists in the north, the existence of a large number of tunnels in Villa Victoria which make military operations difficult and the false report of the deaths of 10 national guardsmen in Chorrera del Guayabo were disclosed by the armed forces yesterday.

The source said military intelligence has found out that the extremist groups operating in Cabanas, Chalatenango and Morazan Departments have been using incendiary bombs, presumably of a material known as napalm, which causes great harm to crops and trees. The source reported that with such devices the extreme leftist forces are trying to curb the advance of the troops pursuing them to evict them from their strongholds.

It was reported that though those explosives have somewhat slowed down the armed forces' offensive, their worst effects have unfortunately been the burning of huts and crops, thus causing great difficulties to the peasants. It was explained that the bombs have been supplied to the extremists by Caribbean nations "which have been using the Gulf of Fonseca as a lost resort to enter national territory."

It was also reported that to fight the extremists the armed forces will change their strategy and soon attack not only from the front but also from the rear with recently secured helicopters and planes especially designed for counterinsurgency operations.

Despite some minor problems, the source said the army is struggling with all its might to "purge those three departments."

As for Villa Victoria, which has been recently turned into a leftist stronghold, it was reported that the difficulties experienced there are the large number of tunnels built by the communists as hideouts. They are strategically located to prevent government forces from finding the terrorists, who stage surprise attacks in some places and then slip away through hills and valleys where the tunnels are. They attack the army units with Chinese and Russian rocket launchers and bazookas from the tunnels.

An officer reported that some populated areas and cantons near Villa Dolores are still controlled by the subversives. He mentioned San Carlos and Chapelcoro as sites of fortified guerrilla camps. However, he added, combined forces have entered Copinolapa, Santa Marta, Pena Blanca and San Antonio Cantons and the areas La Pita, San Felipe and Huiscoyol. Other "nests" of extremists were also destroyed in nearby areas.

Regarding an international news agency dispatch on 10 national guardsmen, he said that they did not die in a single action as the agency disclosed but rather were killed in various places and on various dates.

Guazapa Hill Operation

PA221429 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 20 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Spokesmen for the San Carlos 1st Infantry Brigade announced today that armed forces contingents are being massed in Suchitoto and Guazapa to begin another operation to dislodge guerrilla groups from the northwestern slope of Guazapa Hill. The brigade will be in command of the action.

Col Edmundo Palacios, commander of the San Carlos brigade, confirmed today that over 20 cantons and many hamlets in Suchitoto had been completely cleared of extremists and that the remaining guerrillas have taken refuge on Guazapa Hill. An attack against them will probably be launched tomorrow.

It was explained that the Eastern slope of Guazapa is completely under the control of the armed forces and that special counterinsurgency groups were gathering to begin scaling the hill, where the extremists will be attacked on several flanks with support from artillery units and the Salvadoran Air Force.

Top officials of the San Carlos brigade indicated that while the armed forces are preparing for this operation, traffic between San Martin and Suchitoto has been normal since yesterday.

It was announced that bus service is being resumed and that armed forces patrols are providing extra protection on the highway.

After stating that there was heavy fighting in most cantons in Suchitoto during the effort to dislodge the guerrillas, Colonel Palacios said that the armed forces have decided not to leave the area. Instead, the area will be kept under surveillance.

Clash Near Power Station

PA210310 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Mar 81 pp 2, 19

[Excerpts] Marines stationed at La Herradura fought off a subversive attack and kept terrorists from dynamiting a Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission substation in Las Isletas, authorized sources reported yesterday.

According to the report, the action was staged two nights ago around 2330 when a large group of armed extremists tried to place powerful bombs in the substation's towers to put the entire region in the dark.

The marines were way ahead of the subversives and scared them off at the detour to Las Isletas along the road to La Herradura.

After the shootout, which alarmed the residents of the coastal area, some marines were reported wounded.

The shootout lasted until midnight and no casualties were reported among the extremists; first, it was reported, because they always take their wounded away with them and, second, because the important thing was to prevent the substation from being blown up, and that was achieved when the assailants were forced to flee.

Various Actions

PA211323 Paris AFP in Spanish 1736 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 20 Mar (AFP)--The clashes between the Salvadoran guerrillas and the army continued today in the northern area of the country, particularly in the area of Suchitoto, about 30 km northeast of San Salvador, where the clashes are in their 3d consective week, military sources have confirmed here.

Meanwhile, a pamphlet published clandestinely by the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) calls on the people of prepare for a general political strike that "seeks general insurrection."

Further, the FDR gave assurances today that the "relative decrease in the clashes in some area is due to the fact that within the framework of the general offensive which has begun, it is necessary to regroup the members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)."

A military source said that the Salvadoran Armed Forces are "willing to accept any advice from Argentina and other countries, as long as this helps to break up Marxism and to achieve democracy."

The military source added that various clashes with the guerrillas have taken place in Suchitoto, Guazapa, Aguilares, and other places and he admitted that "the army has suffered several casualties."

"We are fighting hard," he emphasized, "but we have dealt harsh blows against the leftists also."

On the number of casualties in the opposition ranks, the spokesman said that "these are considerable," but he said he did not have final statistics because "the actions still continue."

Combat Near Santo Clara

PA210140 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1906 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Mar (LATIN)--The Salvadoran Army deployed new units around the Santa Clara area, 50 km east of this city, to prevent a possible regrouping of guerrilla forces.

The military moves occurred during an increase in extremist activity, following a relative calm in recent days.

Military spokesman said 21 persons were killed as a result of political violence in the past 24 hours. Only one death was reported yesterday, in contrast with an average of 35 victims daily in recent months. Military spokesmen said these killings are the result of almost open warfare between the extreme left and right.

However, a military spokesman said, fighting between security forces and guerrillas had decreased in recent days, and this could mean a regrouping of the guerrilla forces coinciding with the first anniversary of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero's murder. Romero, an ardent defender of the oppressed, was shot as he was saying mass. Thirty persons died during rioting at his funeral.

A military spokesman said reinforcements were sent to Santa Clara after it was learned that some 1,500 guerrillas were gathering near the Tihuapa River.

Meanwhile, search operations continued in Chalatenango, Cabanas, Morazan and Cuscatlan Departments in an attempt to drive the guerrillas to the Honduran border. These operations have artillery and air support. The spokesman said that so far the government forces have met only scant resistance.

Military Control in Suchitoto

PA221542 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 Mar 81 pp 4, 33

[Excerpt] The city of Suchitoto is totally under the control of the armed forces, which have set up roadblocks at all the city's entry and exit points, as well as at other access roads to rural areas in the district.

Military sources said yesterday that some 29 rural areas have been combed by military troops from various garrisons. The urban areas are being closely guarded to prevent extremists from entering the area to terrorize the inhabitants.

FMLN Capture of U.S. Arms

PA221246 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] In the early hours of 21 March, fighting was renewed around the banks of the Sapo River, Guacamaya Canton, Morazan Department, where our forces maintain their position following several days of heavy fighting and under attacks from planes and artillery fire, which day and night hammer the area.

We have inflicted 12 casualties on the enemy and we have damaged a U.S.-made helicopter. It is possible that the crewmembers were hit by our fire.

The damaged helicopter landed near our line of fire to deliver ammunition to the demoralized troops of the dictatorship which have been held back for 12 days. In many places, such as in La Joya Canton, they have been forced to flee. This is what happened to the company that fled in great disorder when it confronted the attack of troops of the regular army of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] in La Joya Canton, Morazan Department.

In the past few hours we have recovered several M-16 rifles and 1,500 rounds of ammunition. We have also damaged a helicopter. All this was sent in the past few hours by U.S. imperialism. Our people are taking from the enemy what imperialism gives them.

Army Seizure of Aguacayo

PA221813 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] Aguacayo, El Salvador--The small deserted town of Aguacayo was consumed by fire today while the soldiers fighting against the constant harassment of the guerrillas [words indistinct] of the place. Located at the foot of Guazapa Mountain, some 50 km north of San Salvador, Aguacayo was the scene of fierce battles in the past 3 weeks and was finally seized by the army.

In the counteroffensive in the mountains, the situation seems to favor the government forces since they are supported by greater firepower from artillery guns and helicopter gunships.

Guerrilla Attacks

PA222118 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Members of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front have attacked the army garrison in Verapaz, San Vicente Department where they also destroyed the offices of a judicial institution of the Salvadoran regime. It has also been learned that guerrilla groups dynamited the bridge over the Seco River. As a result of this action, an important area of Morazan Department has been left isolated. In Morazan Department, troops of the genocidal Salvadoran regime are carrying out a large military operation with support of planes and tanks.

FMLN Takeover in Yocoaiquin

PA220336 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] Radio Venceremos has just received confirmation of the takeover of the town of Yoloaiquin, Morazan Department. Here is a full report on this victorious action of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

On Friday, 20 March, while our regular forces forced the enemy to flee from the La Joya area and clashes were going on along the banks of the Sapo River, which has turned out to be the first frontline where the enemy has suffered a large number of casualties, other units of our regular forces seized a large portion of Negra Street to make possible the takeover of Yoloaiquin.

In addition to the forces responsible for containing the enemy units that could have tried to reinforce their Yoloaiquin local units, four revolutionary assault units took over the town for more than 3 hours and destroyed the general headquarters of the enemy there. In addition, the revolutionary forces set fire to the mayor's office. The offices of the National Telecommunications Administration were destroyed.

It has not been determined how many casualties the enemy had, after taking complete control of Yoloaiquin. Our fighters of the Francisco Sanchez eastern front reported to the townspeople on the political situation in the country. The people were also told about the development of our liberation war and the isolation in the world of the genocidal junta.

In this operation the revolutionary forces recovered important war materiel. After fulfilling their objectives without suffering any casualties, our forces withdrew.

This has been one of the many actions being carried out right now throughout the Francisco Sanchez eastern front.

Chalatenango in Rebel Hands

PA230003 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1900 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Army has withdrawn from the northern department of Chalatenango without having been able to dislodge the guerrillas there despite the fact that the Honduran Armed Forces prevent the guerrillas from crossing the border and reaching Honduras' mountains.

According to military reports made available by the military headquarters in Sensuntepeque--Cabanas Department--and Chalatenango, 63 km north of San Salvador, the operation initiated 1 week ago to dislodge the guerrillas from the area around the "5 November" hydroelectric plant--which gives energy to half the country--has concluded.

Late yesterday afternoon, when the army was withdrawing from the area, a military patrol was ambushed and three soldiers died and two more were wounded.

Soldiers from several detachments, even from south El Salvador, participated in the operation that went on for 7 days in Chalatenango. The army was supported by artillery fire and the air force.

Some guerrillas, in fleeing the area attacked by the Salvadoran Army, entered Honduran territory. In some clashes between Honduran soldiers and Salvadoran guerrillas, several rebels died. Their bodies have been found in the Lempa River which serves as natural border between Honduras and El Salvador.

The Salvadoran Army has left behind a reserve corp in the area where the operation was carried out. The military headquarters in Sensuntepeque and Chalatenango have admitted that they "have not been able to dislodge the guerrillas because the area is hilly and is favorable for escape actions."

Intensified Clashes Spreading

PA222141 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1918 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The fighting that began some days ago in Morazan Department has intensified and spread to La Union Department, in the eastern part of the country, bordering with Honduras.

According to military spokesmen in Gotera, capital of Morazan Department, the fighting could last "several weeks because the guerrilla camps and refugees are in the mountains where military operations are difficult."

However, the armed forces have dismantled several camps in which they have found "HK-21" .50-caliber machineguns and M-16, FAL and Galil rifles and ammunition for all these weapons.

Military operations are being implemented by three specialized combat companies stationed in Gotera and supported by artillery and by the air force.

The rebel forces in the area include the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP) which is one of the best armed and trained sectors of the Salvadoran guerrillas.

Morazan Department borders on the north, east and west with Honduras, where the Honduran Army has been deployed to prevent violations of its territory.

It was also reported that the guerrillas are trying to wage battles along the west because if the Salvadoran Army is forced back along this sector then the guerrillas could pass to La Union Province in the eastern part of the country.

Neither the army nor the guerrillas have reported casualties figures.

ATTACK ON INTERIOR MINISTER UNSUCCESSFUL

PA212320 Paris AFP in Spanish 2310 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Mar (AFP)--Salvadoran Interior Minister Ovidio Hernandez was the victim of an attempt on his life today as he was driving in his armored station wagon through the center of San Salvador.

Hernandez, an engineer, a Christian Democrat and trusted man of President Napoleon Duarte, was unhurt in the attack carried out with an explosive projectile which glanced off the car's windows.

GUATEMALA

HONDURAN FOREIGN SECRETARY DELIVERS NOTE ON BELIZE

PA211517 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Honduran Foreign Secretary Elvir Sierra met with Guatemalan Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdez at Guatemala's military airport yesterday for approximately 4 hours to officially and formally present Honduras' claims over the Zapotillo Cay, which according to the basis of the understanding reached with the UK for the independence of Belize, will belong to our country.

The note given to the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry states that Honduras has been claiming the Belize Cays and Cisne Island since the beginning of the century, when Guatemala issued a declaration of ownership regarding the Atlantic coast.

Elvir Sierra stated that the British are inclined to grant rights to which they are not entitled, and in this case they are letting Guatemala and Honduras discuss a problem that should not exist since the situation is clear.

Economy Chief With Elvir

PA210305 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMt 20 Mar 81

[Text] Honduran Economy and Commerce Secretary Ruben Mondragon was in Guatemala yesterday accompanying Honduran Foreign Secretary Elvir Sierra. The two met with the Guatemalan foreign minister and with Economy Minister Valentin Solorzano Fernandez. The meeting was on Honduras' position regarding Zapotillo Cay. Bilateral trade agreements were also discussed, but there has been no official report on this.

PNR EXPRESSES OPPOSITION TO AGREEMENT ON BELIZE

PA202006 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] The Reformist National Party [PNR] today expressed its opposition to the agreement signed by Guatemala, Great Britain and Belize regarding the Belizean territory. In a communique issued today, the PNR expressed regrets that the announced bases of understanding do not protect the national interests because those bases are insufficient, imprecise and uncertain.

The PNR interprets the agreement as establishing that Belize will continue to maintain sovereignty over the Ranguana and Zapotillo Cays and that Guatemala will be limited in its use of the cays. The PNR stated that the agreement is completely vague on Belize's obligations. Thus, it does not guarantee the fulfillment of these obligations.

The PNR declared that Great Britain has gained from the agreement and it asked for a renegotiation of the points to guarantee Guatemala's rights.

ARMY ACCUSES GUERRILLAS OF PEASANT MASSACRE

PA202308 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Sixteen persons died today as a result of a clash in Las Lomas, San Juan Comalapa jurisdiction, Chimaltenango Department. The clash began with a guerrilla attack on a military vehicle, according to an army spokesman, Maj Hector Arnoldo Mendez.

[Begin Mendez recording] Today at 0830 near Las Lomas village, San Juan Comalapa jurisdiction, Chimaltenango Department, a military convoy was ambushed by subversive elements. Unfortunately, as a result of this attack, six soldiers died and four were wounded. The military personnel remained and defended their position. Several peasants who witnessed the attack on the military vehicle were massacred by the subversive elements to avoid being recognized by the peasants, a detestable action. [end recording]

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON CLAIM TO CAYS

PA201450 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Government communique issued in Tegucigalpa on 19 March 1981]

[Text] The Foreign Relations Secretariat informs the Honduran people of the following:

1. On 17 March 1981, officially and through this secretariat, the Honduran Government was briefed by a Guatemalan Government delegation on the progress achieved in the negotiations between that government and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the solution of the Belize issue.

2. The cited delegation delivered a document containing the bases of understanding subscribed to by the two countries on 11 March 1981.

3. Point 3 of these bases provides that the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland would cede to Guatemala the use and enjoyment of the Ranguana and Zapotillo Cays as well as rights in those areas of the sea that are adjacent to those cays.

4. Similarly, points 2 and 8 of the bases of understanding contain provisions regarding marine areas, rights to the subjacent seabed and areas of the seabed and of the continental shelf for joint exploration and exploitation of minerals and hydrocarbons.

5. In view of all the foregoing, the Honduran Government sent to the Government of Great Britain and Northern Ireland a note of protest, since the provisions of the aforementioned point 3 affect our country's time immemorial rights of sovereignty over the Zapotillo Cays.

6. In a diplomatic note, the Honduran Government informed the Guatemalan Government of the protest sent to the British Government and, as regards points 2 and 8 of the bases of understanding, it states in the note, as it stated to the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, that given the geographical proximity of Honduras, Guatemala and Belize, the delimitation of marine areas could lead to situations of conflict to the detriment of Honduras' legitimate rights and the validity and permanence of the treaties that are about to be signed. To avoid this, Honduras noted our country's right to participate in all matters related to the delimitation of those areas.

7. For his information, the prime minister of Belize was apprised of the notes mentioned in points 5 and 6 herein.

8. The Government of the Republic of Honduras expresses its gratification with the progress made as a result of the ability and dignity demonstrated by the Governments of Guatemala and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland which promoted, within the framework of international law, an honorable and permanent negotiated solution to the problem of Belize.

U.S. AMBASSADOR BINNS ACCUSED OF INTERFERENCE

PA210242 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Reading of item in EL HERALDO on page 3 on 20 March]

[Text] U.S. Ambassador Jack Robert Binns, who was appointed under President Jimmy Carter's administration, has not been confirmed in his post by Ronald Reagan's administration and will be removed immediately due to the political activities he has carried out by intervening openly in affairs pertaining solely to Hondurans. It has been learned that it is possible that Reagan's administration has been informed of these political activities, which don't agree with the new administration's policy, and so Washington had decided to fire him from the Foreign Service.

Research done by this paper indicates that since the end of 1980, Ambassador Binns has tried to pressure Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia's administration and the political party leaders into holding presidential elections in August. Along with this typically interventionist attitude in Honduran affairs, Binns is promoting political meetings directed at forming a social democratic trend in Honduras similar to the one already working underground in El Salvador.

Under the auspices of the U.S. ambassador, several Hondurans, including attorney Guatama Fonseca, Manuel Acosta Bonilla, Enrique Ortez Colindres, Armando Herazo, Enrique Aguilar Serrato, Ramon Velasquez Nazar, Carlos Sosa Coello and Adolfo Facuse, met at the home of Leslie Chavez in Lomas del Machad, next to Limas del Guijarro on 27 January to discuss Binns' ideas. The meeting analyzed several alternatives for the implementation of the ambassador's views including, among others, the organization of a new political party related to the dissidents of the traditional parties and grouping all leftist groups. The meeting did not rule out the participation of the two communist parties which in effect operate underground in the country.

Another idea was that a group organized with clear-cut objectives and a well-defined political strategy would infiltrate the traditional parties to try to gain total control over them. However, differences emerged during the meeting regarding creation of the political movement due to the economic-social status of the participants.

Our research has shown that the luncheon hosted by Ambassador Binns on 18 January for private enterprise representatives at the El Chico Club in Tegucigalpa was used by the U.S. diplomat to subtly motivate the participants to exert influence so the elections will be held in August. Binns' interventionist attitude went so far as to voice to some businessmen his preference for Jorge Arturo Reina Idiaquez' presidential candidacy as a workable alternative to change in the nation.

It was noted that the U.S. ambassador went to San Pedro Sula for the same reason and met with businessmen and labor leaders to seek support for the movement to create the new Social Democratic Party. On his return to Tegucigalpa, Binns continued to promote meetings with the group of Hondurans who had agreed to begin the political movement. Those meetings were held after 27 January.

It has also been learned that in a letter to the chief justice, Ambassador Binns requested the Supreme Court to expedite the rulings in the cases of Viveros Industriales and Viveros Atlantida, where several U.S. citizens have interests.

Binns has also urged private business organizations and the Central Bank to accept recommendations by the IMF so the country can get credits which will strengthen our balance of payments. Such recommendations entail the imposition of a tax reform which would affect all national production levels.

Such attitudes of open political intervention by Binns, which from every point of view are contrary to Washington's current policy, have led to his prompt dismissal from the U.S diplomatic service, sources consulted on the matter have reported.

NICARAGUA

NOTE TO HAIG ASKS ABOUT SOMOZIST ACTIVITIES IN U.S.

PA202141 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2100 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Managua, 20 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Sandinist government today asked the U.S. State Department for a report on Somozist activities in the United States.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has announced that a note has been sent to the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen Alexander Haig, asking for information on the investigations and suits involving hundreds of Somozist exiles who "on their own have confessed" that they are being trained in camps in Florida.

The note, sent by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, points out that Somozist exiles are also being trained in other parts of the continent "to launch terrorist attacks against Nicaragua."

Foreign Minister d'Escoto states in the note that "Secretary of State Haig must be aware of these activities since they have been reported by the WASHINGTON POST and the NEW YORK TIMES, two U.S. dailies."

The same note points out: "These terrorist activities, in addition to representing a serious offense to Nicaragua, violate the principles that must be the basis of relations between the states and ignore international laws, and these are principles the United States claims to respect and defend."

Deputy Foreign Minister's Views

PA222116 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Mar 81

[Report on news conference with Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Tinoco--date and place not given]

[Text] If the Nicaraguan protest note to the U.S. Government does not yield results, the revolutionary government might take the case to a regional organization. Companero Victor Hugo Tinoco, deputy foreign minister, has said that the revolutionary government expects a convincing reply from the United States regarding the presence and training of Nicaraguan mercenaries and Cuban expatriates who want to invade Nicaragua. In the protest note to the Reagan government, the revolutionary government presented proof that these mercenaries are being trained on U.S. soil and therefore, the United States must provide a reply to these actions that are an open door to terrorism. Here is Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco:

[Begin recording] This protest is the minimal and necessary statement that the Nicaraguan Government had to make in view of the intolerable, illegal, arbitrary and [word indistinct] nature of the training of mercenaries, Cubans who are against the Cuban revolution and Nicaraguan who were members of the Somozist National Guard. All of this has clearly violated international law and relations among sovereign states. We hope that the [words indistinct] U.S. Government will provide a reply and some explanation.

Nicaragua is not the one that said there are training camps. [Words indistinct] the U.S. press, the ABC network, channel 7 in Washington, have shown the training and the sophisticated weapons, not only infantry weapons but even [words indistinct]. They show that [words indistinct] extreme tolerance of activities of counterrevolutionaries. The danger lies in the fact that if this is being permitted it really represents tolerance of international terrorism. Who are these people but mercenaries recruited to enter our country to kill our militiamen and peasants in our border regions? In international law this is an attempt to destabilize the democratic and revolutionary government of Nicaragua. We believe that the U.S. Government must issue a reply soon about this evident violation, not only to Nicaragua but to the international community, because this is a flagrant violation of (?relations among states).

That is why the final part of the document presented by the Foreign Ministry and signed by Foreign Minister d'Escoto said that we expect that the U.S. Government will soon indicate what measures it has taken and what progress has been achieved in investigating the denounced actions.

[Question by unidentified newsman] If the revolutionary government's protest does not have an effect, might Nicaragua take the case to the OAS?

[Answer] If the note does not have an effect--which would be very regrettable--we believe that Nicaragua would very probably consider taking the issue to a regional organization, the OAS, and to an international organization such as the United Nations or possibly the Security Council. This is open tolerance of international terrorism and activities against a popularly and democratically established government. This is intolerable in relations among sovereign states. It is not even being hidden. It is something that has been demonstrated. [Passage indistinct]

[Question] [Passage indistinct] Why did the U.S. Government permit the disclosure of these terrorist activities?

[Answer] Look, I think it is not that the U.S. Government has or has not permitted it. [Passage indistinct] this is a result of the hardening in U.S. foreign policy that has become extremely aggressive and dangerous for our area.

In his lecture on Friday night, Commander Bayardo Arce clearly explained that this aggressive position is not the result of the Nicaraguan [words indistinct]. Commander Arce quoted several statements by the people who are now responsible for drawing of U.S. foreign policy. [end recording]

Junta Member's Remarks

PA201442 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government, through the Foreign Ministry, yesterday filed a note of protest with the U.S. Government for allowing the training of mercenaries and former Somozist National Guardsmen who are planning an invasion of Nicaragua, said Dr Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the government junta. Ramirez said it is outrageous how, with acquiescence of the U.S. authorities, the mercenaries grouped in 10 camps could be allowed to offer interviews to reporters, engage in shooting practice 10 km from Miami and display automatic weapons, banned by the U.S. Federal Neutrality Act.

The Nicaraguan people can clearly observe how U.S. and other foreign mercenaries are preparing an attack against Nicaragua, a charge that has been scoffed at by the reactionary sectors in this country. The following is the statement by Dr Sergio Ramirez:

[Being recording] I wish to tell the Nicaraguan people that our foreign ministry is filing a note of protest with the U.S. Government concerning the existence of these training camps, not only in Florida state, but also in other places in the United States, such as New Orleans, California and several other places in the southern part of the country.

The note, being filed today by our Foreign Ministry, considers this situation most serious. It is outrageous to see how, as noted by newspaper reports, the leaders of these training camps offer military training to hundreds of Somozist criminals who fled Nicaragua on the day of victory. It is also astounding to see how these elements are shown clad in camouflage fatigues and fully armed, engaging in shooting practice near Miami and its airport and using automatic weapons, banned by the U.S. Federal Neutrality Act. All these violations of U.S. laws are being made with the acquiescence of the U.S. authorities.

We have often denounced the preparation of these aggression plans, which have been scoffed by some reactionary sectors in the country, who claim not to believe in such aggression, but who surely agree with it. [end recording]

HAIG'S POLICY ON CENTRAL AMERICA DRAWS COMMENT

PA202143 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The inconsistency of U.S. Secretary of State Haig's arguments upon which the State Department bases its policy in Central America and the Caribbean is often brought up by U.S. political analysts, particularly when the department appears dimwitted in its efforts to convince U.S. congressmen of the need to increase aid to the Salvadoran Christian Democratic military junta while maintaining its escalation of politico-economic aggression against the revolutionary government of Nicaragua. Also, the same is true when it strains to elude or attenuate the well-founded fears of U.S. public opinion as to the degree of risk of such adventurist policy.

Such considerations are sustained by U.S. political experts and observers in Washington and are reported by important communications organs of the United States.

Reflecting such concern, the conservative magazine U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, recognizing the political juggling of Secretary of State Alexander Haig in trying to justify the increase of the military and economic aid to El Salvador, stresses the argument of what it describes as critics of Reagan's policy, who establish that the aid to El Salvador is unnecessary and could even be counterproductive.

This opinion which, according to the same source, is shared by 46 members of Congress determined to close ranks against such aid to the Salvadoran junta, is what provoked the contradictory statements of Mr Haig concerning Nicaragua as he appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to explain the policy of the Reagan administration in the area and to recommend increased aid to the Salvadoran regime.

According to U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, the causes for this attitude lie at the core itself of the recent controversy triggered by the decision adopted in February by President Reagan and Secretary of State Haig to draw a line on communist expansion in Central America, as the magazine textually states.

This explains the contradiction of the secretary of state in his statements to the Senate committee, that while he emphatically states on the one hand that the Nicaraguan Government is daily receiving sophisticated weapons from Eastern Europe, including antiaircraft equipment and even tanks, on the other hand he speaks of not cutting altogether the aid and bonds with Nicaragua. In this confusing game of Mr Haig, the moderate politicians have uncovered the signs that mark the need to justify the disproportionate aid requested for the Salvadoran junta--which is 1981 will reach the excessive amount of $98 million, and for fiscal year 1982 $117.2 million, or more than 50 percent of the total package being requested by the Reagan administration for military aid to Central and South America and the Caribbean for that year, which amounts to $212.6 million.

In this juggling of arguments of the Reagan administration policy for the area, the Vietnam syndrome prompts U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT to ask whether the United States is being drawn into another Vietnam war in its own backyard, using the words of the Representative Gene Leach, Republican from Iowa: Would it be all right for us to be the cause of that dirty civil war becoming a Vietnam in our own backyard?

Trying to seek justification for what is unjustifiable is the main concern today of General Haig and the cause of all his contradictions.

PRESS TOLD TO CHECK STORIES ON OFFICIALS

PA211409 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 21 Mar 81

["Communique No 7" issued by the Office of the Director of the Public Relations Department of the Nicaraguan Government junta in Managua on 19 March 1981]

[Text] The Office of the Director of the Public Relations Department of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction hereby cautions citizens about the systematic campaign being carried out by well-known news media to discredit the Sandinist police, army, militia and state security.

An example of this campaign is the report entitled: The Misery of an Innocent Man. It contains statements allegedly made by Ivan Carrasquilla. This report was published by the LA PRENSA on 18 March. The interior minister will reject this report based on the facts.

Since the appeals that repeatedly have been made to the news media to cease slander campaigns, to promote national unity and to exercise their rights within the framework of political pluralism established in our laws are not being responsibly heeded, the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction cautions that any reporting by any news media on charges against the authorities must be verified with the institution involved before it is published.

To those who may argue that this is a limitation on freedom of the press, it is stated that this measure is based on the most basic principle of journalistic ethics.

The Office of the Director of the News Media Office of the Interior Ministry has been ordered to monitor compliance with this disposition.

Managua, 19 March 1981. Sandino yesterday, Sandino today, Sandino always. Office of the Director of the Public Relations Department of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction.

BORGE VIEWS 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY' PROPAGANDA

PA201639 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 19 Mar 81

[Text] A number of lies and counterrevolutionary activities have been carried out in an effort to distort the image of the present Nicaraguan Government, said Commander Tomas Borge, interior minister of that country, in the following statement received by satellite this afternoon.

[Begin recording]...occasions that could, if we were to fall into them, lead to an armed confrontation with Honduras.

As is well known, we are firm advocates of peace in Central America and the world and the last thing we would want would be to become engaged in a conflict with another country.

There are many points of convergence, so this is an integral matter--foreign threats, economic blackmail, reactionary expressions inside the country, armed counterrevolutionary activities--an entire phenomenon that is essentially counterrevolutionary.

It is said that we are going to send weapons to El Salvador, that we are going to set up a certain social system, that we are totalitarian, that we are dominated by the Cubans, that we are satellites of another satellite, that is, that Cuba is a satellite of the USSR and we are Cuba's subsatellite.

In sum, these things form part of a phenomenon that is historical; this is nothing new. No revolution has ever taken place in the world without a counterrevolution, without having to face the lies, slander and nauseating drivel of the exploiting classes or without having to confront imperialism. There has never been such a case in history and of course, Nicaragua could not be the exception. That is the truth. [end recording]

OPPOSITION SAYS DICTATORSHIP BEING ESTABLISHED

PA222109 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1727 GMT 22 Mar 81

[Report on communique issued by five Nicaraguan opposition parties published on 22 March in LA PRENSA]

[Text] Managua, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Spokesmen of five opposition political parties today said that Nicaragua is moving toward a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship.

In a communique published by today's LA PRENSA, the five parties, which have been described by the Sandinist Front as "the domestic reaction allied with U.S. imperialism," stated that "the regime that rules us gives out doses of freedom according to its own interests."

They criticized the government for, on the one hand, authorizing the political rally organized by the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN) which was to be held in Nandaime 8 days ago, and, on the other hand, "promoting violence and chaos to prevent the rally, which is a complete deception and mockery of our people."

The parties, which make up a well-defined opposition to the government, state that the National Directorate of the Sandinist Front "is the only one responsible for all the disorders and abuses that have occurred and might occur in the future."

The parties advised Nicaraguans to remain "alert in the face of the possible repetition of these actions against any of the democratic parties, labor organizations and people who disagree with the Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN] policy."

They also charged that "the outrages that the current government is committing against freedom of political and union organization are signs that the FSLN is trying to establish a Marxist-Leninist dictatorship in our country."

Besides the MDN, the communique is also signed by the Social Democratic Party, the Social Christian Party, the Democratic Conservative Party and the Constitutionalist Liberal Party. The latter is led by Ramiro Sacasa, a former Somoza minister who withdrew from the Somozist regime to struggle against it.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the Patriotic Front of the Revolution (FPR) have reiterated their support of the FSLN's position and stated that they "will face the rashness of the rightwing."

Besides the FSLN, the FPR is made up of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party, the People's Social Christian Party and the Independent Liberal Party.

CPDH ADVISER INTERVIEWED ON RIGHTS SITUATION

PY171335 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Mar 81 p 9

[Interview with Marta Patricia Baltodano, legal adviser of the Nicaraguan Permanent Commission for Human Rights (CPDH), by ABC reporter Francisco Talavera; in Managua, Nicaragua, in February 1981]

[Text] [Question] What is the current human rights situation in Nicaragua?

[Answer] From the legal viewpoint we currently have in Nicaragua a series of decrees that guarantee the full enforcement of human rights for the Nicaraguan as established in international agreements and Nicaraguan laws.

Nevertheless, even though we can count on these magnificent legal documents, in practice we are regrettably faced with a different situation due to the fact that there are human rights violations.

And we can talk about violations not only from the viewpoint of personal security and integrity, but also from the viewpoint of freedom of expression and union and political freedom.

These violations are not an institutionalized policy of the government, which I believe has in a certain way demonstrated that it has good will. Nevertheless, we believe that if the government does not take certain measures to control these violations, it will in fact become an accomplice of them.

Thus, with some regret we cannot truly say that there are no human rights violations in Nicaragua. As a conservative estimate, between 600 and 700 persons disappeared in 1980.

Some of them were captured in the aftermath of the revolutionary victory, were Sandinist Front prisoners, and afterward disappeared. Others were captured during the first days of 1980 and throughout the year. We even have members of the militia and other persons who were captured in 1981, and now they are missing.

Sometimes these disappearances last for 3 or 4 days or for 1 or 2 weeks, but by no means do they nullify the meaning of the phenomenom of disappearances. This is why we really believe that human rights are being violated.

In the labor sector we have several independent federations, and it is a fact that they suffer discredit and pressure from state institutions and official labor unions. Their members are being coerced in various ways to become members of a sole union.

[Question] Headed by the Sandinists?

[Answer] Yes, by the Sandinist Workers Federation.

Regarding freedom of expression, the government has recently released Decrees No 511 and 512 which, although they state that they are for the protection of national security, the economy and other very important matters, imply prior censorship.

We agree with the IAPA principle that the best press law is no press law. We believe that all information regarding the protection of the people and of the honor and reputation of the individual must be regulated, but we also believe that these [existing] decrees do not protect these areas: on the contrary, they tend to coerce freedom of expression.

Regarding politics, we believe that political pluralism does not exist in the form they preach about. The Sandinist Front controls most of the media and through it implements party propaganda. This does not give the other political parties an opportunity when they want to hold rallies.

For example, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement [MDN] is a specific case: it wanted to hold a rally in Nandaime and they refused it permission. And when other types of meetings have been carried out, Sandinist youth have turned up and verbally and physically attacked those attending.

[Question] And how are matters regarding political prisoners?

[Answer] After the victory of the revolution, the jails were full of prisoners, especially former members of the National Guard and close friends of the Somoza regime. Regrettably, innocent people were also included who, because of pure suspicion, also found themselves jailed. The number of prisoners reached 7,000.

At the present time we know that quite a few persons have been released. There was one pardon in October 1980 and another on 10 December of the same year. We consider these pardons, which the government junta termed "revolutionary pardons" or "revolutionary generosity," to be simply acts of justice.

Maybe these persons were in jail due to a false accusation and there was insufficient evidence to bring them to trial. It was natural that they had to be released.

We believe the prisoners' situation has improved slightly. This is logical. There is a national penitentiary system that is trying by every means to satisfy the basic needs of the prisoners. But even so, we do not believe the situation is excellent on the contrary.

The courts have studied the cases of 4,000 prisoners and the majority of them have been sentenced. Special ad hoc courts have been created to try Somoza sympathizers. They are similar to the Nuremberg court. The legality of these special courts has been questioned under the argument that they are trying to apply the rules of war: The winner punishes the loser. They have also been criticized by the international commission of legal experts which, in a private and unrevealed report sent to the government, has fully analyzed these courts from a legal point of view and it declares that they are incompetent because they lack a minimum of legal guarantees.

We are therefore faced with the fact that although 4,000 or 5,000 prisoners have been tried and sentenced, the majority of the dossiers reveal that they have not been judged by impartial individuals.

[Question] There are also very severe sentences of up to 30 years.

[Answer] The maximum sentence in Nicaragua is 30 years. Generally when the attorney general formulates his accusation against a certain individual, he asks for the 30-year sentence. This is the sentence for creating an illegal organization in order to commit a crime. They qualify the fact of having become a member of the National Guard as a crime--having become a member of an organization that, according to them, was used for killing and suppressing the population.

This viewpoint has been constantly rejected by the defense lawyers and by the CPDH because at the time of its existence, the National Guard was a legal organization. Its creation had been contained in the constitution, and when it took power the government junta declared it dissolved. Therefore, it is absurd to consider the National Guard as an organization for committing crime when the junta declares it dissolved through a decree. There is an inconsistency here.

[Question] The sentences appear to be very severe. I have read in the newspapers that a person was sentenced to 3 years in jail for having become a member of the National Guard 3 months before Somoza's fall.

[Answer] That he has been sentenced to 3 years can be considered a very light sentence in view of the rest of the sentences because there are people the interior of the country whom the National Guard recruited against their will--people with low income, peasants who were obliged and coerced to enter the National Guard. These people were obliged to remain on the battle fronts, some of them without knowing anything about the use of weapons and who miraculously were able to survive. Nevertheless, many of these people were given sentences of 20 and 30 years.

According to what I have been told, the judges of these special courts take into account the place and time these people were recruited. No matter if they had been members for only 6 days; for the simple fact that they were members during the final months of the revolution the judges consider them born criminals, even though there is no evidence against them. There have even been sentences for murder in which there is no corpus delicti, without even a suspicion of a crime being committed and even without any indication that there had been a victim.

[Question] Have any obstacles been placed in the CPDH's path?

[Answer] After the victory of the revolution this institution gave a sigh of relief--as did all of Nicaragua's population--with the change of government because even this institution was involved in the fight against Somoza.

Toward the end of July 1979, with the government junta already installed, we offered our services. We placed ourselves at the disposal of the revolutionary government because we believed we were going to work together as we had become united by the same cause.

Moreover, the Sandinist Front and the government junta was deaf to our petitions, and in the following months the human rights situation became more difficult, to such an extent that we had many details regarding missing persons and the fact that the situation of the prisoners was extremely dangerous. We had minors together with adults, innocent people involved with criminals, a really conflictive situation that we wished to resolve through dialogue with the government.

The government, as I have just said, was deaf to our petitions and we therefore opted to reveal the charges regarding the violation of human rights. This provoked a negative action against us by the government. The interior minister even summoned the institution's national coordinator to a private meeting in which he told him that our institution had to disappear because there was a new government and that the Sandinist Front was guaranteeing human rights.

We answered that the CPDH, as its name indicates, is of a permanent nature and that it was going to exist no matter what type of government was in power in the country and that we felt there would always be a need for a nongovernment institution to oversee the government's actions regarding human rights.

From that time the attacks against our institution began to escalate. There were even verbal attacks by the interior minister, by members of the government junta, in such a gross manner and with really vulgar words. In front of multitudes they even accused us as counterrevolutionaries, reactionaries, of defaming the revolution and a series of gross epithets that we sincerely believe we do not merit.

These attacks decreased somewhat due to the visit of the OAS's Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

Maybe the attacks decreased slightly because the commission's visit meant our institution had support. This was also stressed with the visit of the Venezuelan president, Luis Herrera Campins, who publicly demonstrated his support for the institution.

It is true that the attacks have decreased, but at a practical level we have observed that the authorities place obstacles in our path.

They have not allowed us to visit the prisons. At the end of 1979 and the beginning of 1980 we were still able to visit them. Since our petitions have not been answered the penitentiary system has tacitly denied our visits.

We also encounter obstacles in other business of a legal nature that we carry out and in our job we stumble into many difficulties. But we have a lot of support, both at the national and the international levels, and this has permitted us to carry on.

[Question] I have noted that the government has created a state commission for human rights.

[Answer] As I have been telling you, the government was increasing its campaign, which it continues to implement, against the institution. Logically, it cannot make us disappear because it would be a political error for them. They would be confirming what we have stated, that true freedom to associate does not exist.

The government therefore created a state commission for human rights in order to deny our assertions regarding the charges of human rights violations.

This fact is more evident in the international sphere. When Nicaragua or our institution are invited to participate in an event, we always encountered another institution from the state level that would assert the contrary to what we were charging with the intention of denying our assertions.

Moreover, it has created confusion at the international level. We believe, with regard to internal affairs, that this commission cannot count on the impartiality that characterizes us. A person who feels he has been harmed by the government is not going to resort to a government commission to relate his case because it must be considered that it does not have sufficient independence to hand down a decision favoring the harmed party.

This commission has even publicly stated that it has undertaken a series of cases which we ourselves have undertaken saying that it was that commission that undertook all the business regarding those cases.

[Question] All of this then confirms that the CPDH is now more necessary than ever in Nicaragua.

[Answer] Yes, the CPDH has work to do because it is true that many things still have to be resolved here.

BULGARIAN MISSION ARRIVES FOR 8-DAY VISIT

PA180359 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 17 Mar 81

[Text] A government mission from the State Committee of the Unified Information System of Bulgaria arrived in Managua today. The Bulgarian delegation will spend 8 days in this country.

The purpose of the visit is to strengthen scientific-technical cooperation and to exchange experiences with the Nicaraguan Institute of Statistics and Census.